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Children's Aid Society of
Hamilton-Wentworth
Annual report
1971 ->

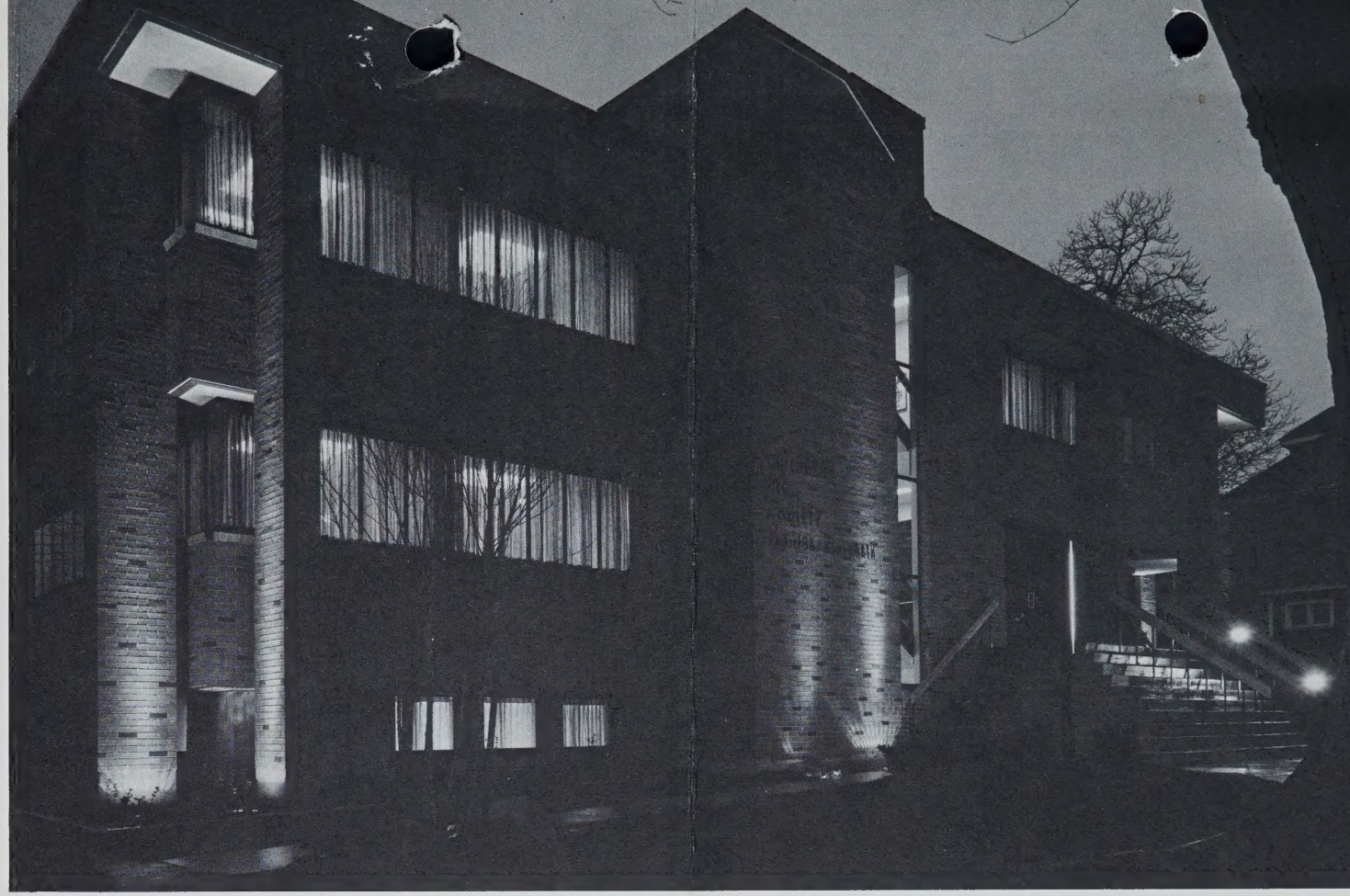
Summary of Revenue & Expenditures

as at December 31, 1971

Revenue		
Hamilton	$ 497,924	
Wentworth	86,288	
Province	1,461,198	$2,045,410
Other		
Family Allowance applied to Board	$ 15,378	
Family Allowance — Other	6,877	
Other Societies	25,973	
Divorce Fees	10,679	
Camp Programme	6,531	
Memberships	463	
Bank Interest earned	4,184	70,085
Total Revenue		$2,115,495
Expenditures		
Direct Costs Re: Children in Care		
Foster Boarding Homes	$ 342,829	
Group and Treatment Homes	115,923	
Own — Receiving Assessment Centre	159,654	
Outside Institutions	290,989	
Clothing	65,248	
Health	36,556	
Education	10,112	
Transportation	5,292	
Other Needs	12,749	$1,039,352
Service to Families and Unmarried Parents		
Professional Services	$ 589,761	
Travel and Accommodation	35,743	
Other Services	20,073	$ 645,577
Administrative Costs		
Senior Management	$ 90,209	
Secretarial, Accounting and Statistical	144,024	
Maintenance	7,510	
Pensions and Benefits	17,015	
Conferences and Staff Training	8,731	
Utilities and Accommodation	22,616	
Telephone	18,095	
Postage	3,766	
Public Relations Programme	5,149	
General Expense and Equipment	32,349	
Association Membership Fees	2,261	
Provision for Debenture Debt	1,743	
Expansion Furnishings	42,438	
Sundries	90	$ 395,996
Total Expenditures		$2,080,925
Total Revenue		2,115,495
Revenue in Excess of Expenditure		$ 34,570

AUDITORS: Fenton, Swing and Sinnamon

An audited statement of the Society's financial operations for the year 1971 is available for study at the Society's offices, upon request.



Board of Directors & Officers

1971-1972

HONORARY PRESIDENT

Dr. Lloyd D. Jackson

HONORARY SOLICITORS

Mr. N. W. Byrne, Q.C. — Mr. J. E. Milne, Q.C.

Mr. J. F. Reesor, Q.C.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Mrs. J. D. Fleming
Past President	Mrs. D. D. Campbell
Vice Presidents	Mr. B. W. Gillespie
	Mr. S. M. Fletcher
Treasurer	Mr. L. Thomas
Managing Director	Mr. J. G. Finlay

DIRECTORATE

Mr. J. E. Adamson	Mr. G. Harris
Councillor M. Blair	Mr. H. M. Hines, Q.C.
Mr. G. W. Brown	Controller A. H. Jones
Mr. W. P. Cooper	Mrs. G. C. McAuley
Mrs. R. Cornett	Mr. M. McKnight
Mr. S. Davidson	Mrs. J. McNie
Mrs. H. A. Dickenson	Mr. R. Moore
Dr. H. T. Ewart	Mr. T. Moore
Alderman R. W. Ford	Mr. J. R. Sams
Mr. W. Found	Mr. R. Spoar
Mr. C. Frater	Alderman Dr. J. Stowe
Dr. J. G. Gorwill	Mr. L. D. Thomas

The Children's Aid Society Hamilton-Wentworth

1972

The Child Born out of Wedlock

Would you believe that in 1967 we were working in the interests of some 315 unmarried parents compared with 156 for the year just ended? During the same period, 271 children born out of wedlock, were admitted to foster care with many eventually finding their way into permanent homes through adoption. This figure of 271 in 1967, decreased to 116 children in 1971.

The reasons are for the most part, due to one or more of the following: increased use of contraceptive devices, a pronounced tendency to seek abortion and finally, more unmarried mothers, between 40 and 45%, choosing to retain and raise their own children.

Never is an unmarried mother compelled or forced to relinquish her child to the Children's Aid Society. The Child Welfare Act of Ontario protects her right to care for her child if she so elects. It is only when the mother seeks out, is referred to the CAS, or the child is reported to us as being in need of possible protective care, that we can intercede. The Society also recognizes the vitally important role played by the father of the child as well. He too has feelings and concerns and counselling for him can be equally important, as we endeavour to assist both mother and father in the realization and acceptance of their individual and joint responsibilities.

As more and more unmarried mothers make the decision to retain their child, we can foresee our post-confinement counselling role increasing in importance. Wherever help is needed or wanted, it is our earnest hope that we will be able to measure up in the eyes of those we strive so diligently to serve.

Adoption Today

Are there just as many children in need of adoption homes as there ever were? This is an often asked question and the answer is yes — a qualified yes. If you are interested in an infant, the waiting period which was once down to approximately three months has now increased to a year or even longer. The "yes" however, still applies when it comes to school aged children and those in their teens and the waiting period is much much shorter as a rule.

Those of you who have read the Today's Child feature appearing in the Hamilton Spectator, will know of the great many children of all ages throughout Ontario still awaiting permanent homes. They are sometimes referred to as the "hard to place child" simply because through no fault of their own, they have experienced certain physical and/or mental difficulties or have just managed to grow out of the infant stage before they were legally available for adoption consideration. Their capacity for giving of themselves and absorbing all the love and warmth of parents who care, is unlimited. There was a time when children were placed on adoption primarily on a one child to a home basis. This was not necessarily planned this way, it just so happened that placing brothers and sisters as a group in one home was not too frequent. Increasingly of late, this has ceased to be the case not only with this Society but throughout the province as well.

To keep families together is our prime goal whether it be with their own parents or as children in care as brothers and sisters who need each other as much as they need you, their potential adopting parents.

Facts and Figures

Population of Hamilton	298,755
Population of Wentworth County	91,936
Children helped in their own homes	1,634
Children in foster or other types of care during year	1,055
Unmarried mothers assisted throughout the year	315
Financial help from fathers of out of wedlock children	$24,290
Children returned to parents	223
Children placed for adoption	152
Adoptions completed	193
Children in all categories of substitute care at year end	564
Foster boarding homes in use at end of year	233
Group, Emergency and Treatment Homes in use at end of year	18
Days care provided during year	203,895
*Citizen members of the Society at year end	800
Citizens serving on Board of Directors, Committees and as Volunteers throughout the year	337
Total staff of Society as of year end full and part time	115
Children's Aid Societies in Ontario	50

*Membership in the Society is available to all interested citizens or groups for an annual fee of $2.00 per citizen or group. Each $2.00 membership fee entitles the member to one vote at any Annual or special General Meeting, plus a yearly subscription to the Journal, published by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies — ten issues per year.

How can You Help us to Help Them?

By giving serious thought to becoming Foster Parents or Group Home parents for school age or teenage children. The need for foster homes is urgent — the need is now!

The C.A.S...

It's Role
It's Purpose
It's Position in Law

The Child Welfare Act of Ontario under which your Society functions states:

1. Every children's aid society shall be incorporated under The Corporations Act or a predecessor thereof and shall be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

2. Every children's aid society shall be operated for the purposes of,

a. investigating allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protection;

b. protecting children where necessary;

c. providing guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;

d. providing care for children assigned or committed to its care under this or any other Act;

e. supervising children assigned to its supervision under this or any other Act;

f. placing children for adoption;

g. assisting the parents of children born out of wedlock or likely to be born out of wedlock and their children born out of wedlock.

h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.

3. Every society shall provide at least the standard of services prescribed by the regulations.

Family Togetherness

Throughout 1971 as in years past, the preservation and strengthening of family ties has been our prime objective.

Changing values and the price people put on them is occupying much of staff time. In the search for life's true meaning and purpose, we find ourselves drawing more and more on the growing network of community services. Whether these be in the field of mental health, education, recreation, employment, spiritual enrichment, they only serve to augment our own efforts on behalf of families and children.

A new building with its emphasis on service to people has and will continue to add depth to our counselling role. Furthermore, it will allow the flexibility of approach to problems that was so sadly lacking in our former overcrowded quarters.

In a recent study of some 174 open files, it was noted that 28% of these represented a core problem of parent-adolescent conflict. In another 25%, conflict or tensions between parents seemed to be the main reason for our involvement.

If we can help young people, their parents, the family as a whole, to experience a more satisfying life, then we will have taken a large step forward in our efforts to fulfill our mandate to the community.

The Child In Our Care

To admit a child to foster care is as much as saying to the child "we the Children's Aid Society, are better able to care for you than are your parents". Herein lies both the challenge and the underlying commitment to the child that we in fact can provide him what his parents may not be able to.

While the total number of children in our care at any one time is lower than it has been in the last five years, the actual number admitted to care through our Protection Department during the year, is higher over the same period of time.

Who are these children? For the most part they are in the 10 to 16 year age range. They are children who have experienced some of the tension and the parent-adolescent conflict referred to previously. For a youngster to say "I've run away, I just can't hack it any longer, have you got a place for me?", presents a real problem in these days of a growing and alarming decrease in the number of citizens offering their homes as foster, group or treatment settings. All too often we find ourselves turning to institutional resources having a treatment or group-living emphasis and at a daily cost which would be well beyond the reach of even the well-to-do family. It is the contention of many of our staff, that we must get to the root of these family difficulties much earlier. When the child comes to us at 10, 12 or 14 years of age, much damage may have already been done and the road back is not only difficult to travel, but often times even hard to find.

We truly and sincerely believe in the potential of these young people, but we need citizen help in abundance if we are going to be able to make a meaningful contribution to their lives.

Sixth Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1971.

From the President's Pen

The year 1971 will be remembered as a significant one in the history of the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth. The Official Opening of our new service quarters in December served as a milestone, highlighting the combined efforts of two communities committed to meeting the needs of their people in their service to children.

The design of our new building reflects the philosophy of involvement in a sharing experience — human beings reaching out to help other human beings — our agency reaching out to the people of our community. Its purpose — to serve creatively and effectively a growing demand for diversity of service, yet providing the flexibility required in our times. Clients on entering the building will find the welcoming entrance-way, the cheerful use of colour in halls and rooms and the provision for privacy, of help in setting them at ease in strange and perhaps frightening surroundings.

In the past we recognized a need for educational and volunteer facilities; we hope that these facilities in our new building will further stimulate the interest and increase the participation of our community.

Our Receiving-Assessment Centre in operation a full year now, reflects the need for such a facility within the framework and scope of a Children's Aid Society. Over one hundred children have benefited from this residential setting.

For a child coming into care for the first time the experience can be a traumatic one. This also applies to the child being placed as of necessity, from one foster care setting to another. This vital interlude to determine his individual needs and wishes could be the most significant period of his life, bridging the retrospection of his past and seeking the key to his future.

While the number of young children needing our services is steadily declining, of great concern to our Society last year was the increasing number of teen-age children coming into our care from the courts. Behavioural problems, drugs, lack of parental control, parental apathy, children on their own seeking our help — all were contributing factors in our growing demand for intensified services. Available resources to cope with this diversity of need are declining, making placements difficult and costly. Our approach to these problems must be flexible in scope and our solutions reflect our resourcefulness.

When the history of this decade is recorded and analysed, the year 1971 will mirror the informed concern and response of the citizens of Hamilton-Wentworth.

As I conclude my term as President of this Society, I am very conscious of the contribution made by many individuals. Our new facilities, our Receiving-Assessment Centre, our group, treatment, foster and adoption homes all reflect your deep concern and involvement for better social services. Our growing membership and the increasing number of active volunteers attest to this community's social consciousness.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I welcome this opportunity to express our gratitude to each of you and on your behalf pay tribute to our Managing Director Mr. Jack Finlay and his staff for their outstanding contribution to a more humane community. Their insight, vision and loyalty serve as an example to us all.

To the hard working Board of Directors whose combined expertise and willingness to serve, made my term as President a stimulating and memorable one, my sincere gratitude for your loyal support.

For the children of Hamilton-Wentworth may the year ahead be a brighter one and may our efforts on your behalf bring hope and fulfillment to your lives.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Fleming

President.

URB/MAIN

How can You Help us to Help Them?

By giving serious thought to becoming Foster Parents or Group Home parents for school age or teenage children. The need for foster homes is urgent — the need is now!

SUMMARY
REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

As at December 31, 1972

REVENUE		
Hamilton	$ 572,321	
Wentworth	101,975	
Province	1,535,244	$ 2,209,540
OTHER		
Family Allowance Applied To Board	8,296	
Family Allowance - Other	6,449	
Other Societies	23,429	
Divorce Fees	8,400	
Summer Programme	6,280	
Memberships	1,453	
Bank Interest Earned	3,660	57,967
TOTAL REVENUE		2,267,507
EXPENDITURES		
Direct Cost Re:		
Children In Care		
Foster Boarding Homes	354,955	
Group & Emergency Homes	118,103	
Own-Receiving Assessment Centre	208,075	
Outside Institutions	315,906	
Clothing	60,919	
Health	34,037	
Education	10,330	
Transportation	6,694	
Other Needs	9,732	1,118,751
Service To Families & Unmarried Parents		
Professional Service	625,808	
Travel & Accommodation	35,444	
Other Services	21,945	683,197
Administrative Costs		
Senior Management	90,409	
Secretarial, Accounting & Statistical	152,805	
Maintenance	8,859	
Pensions & Benefits	21,621	
Conference & Staff Training	5,837	
Utilities & Accommodation	22,399	
Telephone	18,951	
Postage	4,455	
Public Relations Programme	5,185	
Association Membership Fees	2,527	
Provision For Debenture Debt	70,112	
General Expense & Equipment	20,485	
Sundries	77	423,722
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		2,225,670
TOTAL REVENUE		2,267,507
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE		41,837

AUDITORS: Fenton, Swing & Sinnamon
An audited statement of the Society's financial operations for the year 1972 is available for study at the Society's office, upon request.

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1972-1973

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Mr. H.M. Hines, Q.C.
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Mr. G. Harris
Controller A.H. Jones
Mrs. G.C. McAuley
Mr. M. McKnight
Mrs. J. McNie
Mr. R. Moore
Mr. T. Moore
Mrs. R. Ralph
Mr. J.R. Sams
Mr. R. Spoar
Alderman Dr. J. Stowe
Mr. L. D. Thomas
Dr. B. Wharf

annual report 1973

The Children's Aid Society
Hamilton-Wentworth

SERVICES TO THE CHILD IN FOSTER CARE

When our primary aim of keeping the family together cannot be met, and it becomes necessary to apply to the court for wardship of a child, our second goal is to place that child in the setting best suited to his needs. During the past year this has been a problem because of the serious shortage of foster homes for children of all ages, particularly teenagers. Each year the number of applicants for foster care decreases. This is perhaps due in part to people's concern about raising their own children in today's complex, materialistic, non-spiritual and problem-filled society.

As one solution to the shortage of regular foster homes, we have continued to seek out group home foster parents and we are fortunate to have 7 foster parent owned group homes operating at the present time, providing care for a total of 50 children.

We stand on the threshold of an innovative program which we hope will assist us in meeting the shortage of specialized resources. In collaboration with Wesley House - a local residence for teenagers - plans are being worked out for a second residence which will serve as a short term "cooling off" centre for up to ten young people. When parent-teenager relationships have reached the boiling point, hopefully, a brief separation of parent and youngster, through the use of this "safety valve" type of environment will rule out the possibility of permanent family separation.

For children who cannot return home to their natural family, one of the alternatives may be adoption. Like foster care, adoption today faces many problems. Adoption is ceasing to mean adoption of infants because of the number of unmarried mothers keeping their babies. Applicants who insist on adopting an infant are now faced with waiting periods of two to three years. The children who are available, are the increasing number of older and difficult-to-place children who have come into our permanent care as a result of irreparable family breakdown. For these children, the TODAY'S CHILD feature in the press and the television program FAMILY FINDER have produced some excellent results, however, the need is still great.

As in the past, our society will continue to try to do all in its power to locate the best possible foster homes, group homes and adopting homes for children who cannot live with their own families. However, we need the cooperation and involvement of concerned citizens who share our interest in the children of this community.

FACTS and FIGURES

Population of Hamilton	303,000
Population of Wentworth County	91,936
Children helped in their own homes	1,412
Children in foster or other types of care during year	983
Children returned to parents	250
Children in all categories of substitute care at year end	499
Foster boarding homes in use at end of year	197
Group and Emergency Homes in use at end of year	12
Days care provided during year	201,130
Unmarried mothers assisted throughout the year	242
Financial help from fathers of out of wedlock children	$22,773
Children placed for adoption	131
Adoptions completed	139
*Citizen members of the Society at year end	1,278
Citizens serving on Board of Directors, Committees and as Volunteers throughout the year	207
Total staff of Society as of year end full and part time	109
Children's Aid Societies in Ontario	50

*Membership in the Society is available to all interested citizens or groups for an annual fee of $2.00 per citizen or group. Each $2.00 membership fee entitles the member to one vote at any Annual or Special General Meeting, plus a yearly subscription to the Journal, published by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies - ten issues per year.

HOW CAN YOU HELP US TO HELP THEM?

- The need for homes is urgent - the need is now!
- Become a foster parent or a group home parent.
- Consider the adoption of an older child.

THE C.A.S. ...

It's Role
It's Purpose
It's Position in Law

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b. protecting children where necessary;
c. providing guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
d. providing care for children assigned or committed to its care under this or any other Act;
e. supervising children assigned to its supervision under this or any other Act;
f. placing children for adoption;
g. assisting the parents of children born out of wedlock or likely to be born out of wedlock and their children born out of wedlock;
h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.

3. Every society shall provide at least the standard of services prescribed by the regulations.

KEEPING THE FAMILY TOGETHER

"I'm so afraid my boy is just going to take off one of these days. Somehow I can't seem to get through to him."

"My daughter wants to leave school and go and live with this boy she just met. I can't understand what's happening to her."

Increasingly, these are the statements that our Family Service Department hears from concerned parents from all walks of life who are experiencing critical breakdowns in relationships with their teenagers. Society is changing so rapidly that guidelines for parents that worked a few short years ago are no longer valid. Young people are confronting and questioning the values of their elders at home and at school, and parents are finding themselves at a loss as to how to deal with their teenagers. Frequently, the future of the family as a unit seems at stake.

One answer to these urgent crisis situations which we have tried in the past year has been a highly concentrated, short term approach by a team of two social workers who are specially skilled at working with parent-teenager problems. Intensive individual and family counselling is done at the point of crisis and in many cases we have been able to avert major separations in families.

Another type of parent who may be exposed to special difficulties in raising her child is the young unmarried mother. The past few years has seen a marked increase in the number of girls who are choosing to keep their babies; and this has been the major factor behind the service to unmarried parents being looked upon as "service to the single parent family" and part of the responsibility of our Family Service Department. This change in focus has led to an increase in the ongoing casework service to both the mother and the father following the birth of the child. It has also meant the creation of new group programs designed to provide emotional support and encouragement and at the same time to ensure the proper care of their children.

The recent addition to our building has made it possible for us to develop other new and innovative programs - such as our craft activity program - for children, parents and families. These programs are intended, not as a replacement, but as a supplement to our traditional casework services and both together, embody our primary concern to do all we can, to support and strengthen families and to keep families together.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1972

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As your President, I consider it a privilege to be provided the opportunity of reflecting upon the year just ended. With the completion of our expansion program in the late fall of 1971, we approached the year 1972 with a deep sense of satisfaction in having been able to realize such a splendid setting in which and from which, we would be able to fulfill our responsibilities to the greater Hamilton - Wentworth area.

To the County of Wentworth, the City of Hamilton and the Province of Ontario, we shall always be deeply indebted for making this dream a reality. Truly can this be looked upon as a cooperative effort and one in which the needs of children and families as a group, became the focal point of their individual and collective interest.

Early in January of 1972, your Society introduced a new and innovative way of providing service to the community. This was we feel, a "first" in child and family welfare services, whereby our facilities were open to the public 52 hours per week in contrast with the former 43 hours, on an official basis. With the office available for expanded programs in family and children's services three nights per week instead of one, new approaches were tried to meet the needs of adults and children.

Furthermore, staff took advantage of the extended hours to make contact with families in the evening, not only in the office proper, but through home visitation, where the whole family, when appropriate, could be involved as a unit. This did not necessitate an increase in staff, for through the use of a flexible hour approach, staff were able to work five days in four, if they elected to do so. With some slight modifications noted through trial, error and experimentation, the flexible hour concept is still in effect and is now a permanent feature of our service delivery method.

Parent groups; foster and group-home parent training programs; the use of arts and crafts as a therapeutic technique in helping people to understand themselves and relate to others; teenager "rap" sessions; frank and open dialogue between teenagers, their peers and those standing in the role of substitute parents and counsellors around such "gut-issues" as drugs and venereal disease; karate classes for boys 8 to 12 years of age; "weight-watchers" classes for foster parents and their foster children; discussion sessions in depth, involving single parents or girls who were unmarried and had elected to raise their own child; play-schools for the culturally unenriched or under stimulated pre-school child, touch but a few of the areas in which we have been involved throughout the past twelve months.

Through preventive measures such as those just referred to, we hope we will be able to not only alleviate present difficulties, but more important still, prevent further or future crises from taking root, in the lives of the families and children with whom we are privileged to work.

Elsewhere in this printed report, you will note the trends in service - more teenagers in care; fewer babies coming to our attention; shortages in foster and group-care resources; a still very prevalent interest in adoption, and the need to try newer and more innovative ways of meeting the needs of people coming to our attention.

Undergirding these service roles and relationships, are a vast group of private citizens as board and committee members; plus a growing and significant contingent of volunteers with many and varied interests and talents directed towards helping others.

We feel we have only begun to tap the outer layer of a vast potential for good, sound and meaningful help for those in need, in this growing community. With the never failing moral and financial support of the City of Hamilton, County of Wentworth and Province of Ontario and its citizens, whether we be part of a Region of our own choice or not, we are confident that the days and years ahead, will be rich in meaning.

To our Managing Director and his very conscientious and dedicated staff and to all who have helped us, we say a sincere word of thanks.

If we have, or do fail to measure up in your eyes, we look to you to assist us in keeping our aims and objectives in sharp focus in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Burnett W. Gillespie,
President

URB/WWM

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- Consider the adoption of an older child.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1973

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

As I conclude the second year of my term as your President, I take great pleasure in highlighting some of the more significant achievements of these past twelve months, particularly those related to the role and responsibilities assumed by your Board of Directors.

Before doing so though, I would like to pay tribute to two gentlemen whose contribution to this Society and community will be long remembered. In 1973, we were all saddened by the passing of our Honorary President, Dr. Lloyd D. Jackson and Mr. Norman W. Byrne, Q.C., a past President and one of the founding fathers of the Hamilton Society. To each we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude.

The Board of Directors, has its roots firmly implanted legislatively in the Child Welfare Act of this province and in the very history of the child welfare movement, which now covers a span in excess of 75 years.

The role of the directorate is to reflect upon the needs of children and families throughout the community; to engage staff and to provide guidelines for staff in order that these needs can be met. Hundreds of lives are affected each year by this Society's involvement with children and the family constellation of which they are a part. It is therefore most important that your Board of Directors be open minded; challenged by the opportunities for service presented by changing times and possessed of the courage and vitality so necessary to effect meaningful change.

During the year just concluded, your Board of Directors took appropriate action with respect to the following:

- Having its Letters Patent or Charter amended so as to provide for the election of the Board of Directors for terms of three, two or one year rather than the former practice of electing the directorate for a one year term only. Experience has shown that it takes more than one year to fully understand the complexities involved in the functioning of the Children's Aid Society of today. Furthermore, an influx of new board members at periodic intervals, also serves to ensure the quality of the board's performance with the stimulation provided by new ideas.

- Realizing the pronounced shift in our child in care population from the younger to the older child and the serious decrease in the number of foster homes to meet changing needs, your Board updated its rates of board for teenagers. In the realization that the cost of caring for children is increasing almost by the day, your Board of Directors were of the opinion that foster parents, who do a magnificent job, should be more adequately compensated. This is on a three year experimental basis and for the purpose of determining whether the higher rates will help us to retain the homes we have and to increase the number already fostering for the Society.

- Service policies or guides to practice for our staff, were completely re-written during 1973-1974. The re-writing started first with the staff who know the needs of people both adults and children alike, then to the two service committees of the board, namely, the Family Services and Children's Services Committees respectively and finally, the directorate as a whole, for formal ratification.

- In the realization that to attract and hold competent staff is one of the prime objectives of the board, your directorate took forward steps throughout 1973-1974 to amend or update the following: — Personnel Practices which were completely re-written and with staff provided an opportunity for input; salary schedules and fringe benefits so as to remain consistent with the Professional Association of Social Workers and the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies and the provision of past service pension benefits for staff with long years of service to the agency and community.

- Throughout 1973-1974 we have continued our close association with our friends of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of this community. Also of note, is our participation in the Joint Public Relations Committee which includes representation from the Children's Aid Society of Halton County and finally, the planning of a joint foster home recruitment campaign which will be launched over the next few weeks and again, involving the three Societies.

As we move into 1974, we are ever mindful of the hundreds and thousands of lives we touch upon each and every year. Our stewardship to the community has been greatly enhanced by an ever growing core of volunteers; a membership which exceeds one thousand citizens of the greater Hamilton-Wentworth area; a very conscientious and diligent Board of Directors ably supported by a large committee roster; in excess of 200 foster, group and adopting parents; a relationship with the news media which has been tremendously helpful; an ongoing bond of mutual trust and support with the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, the Ministry of Community and Social Services of the Province of Ontario, the municipal corporations of Hamilton, Wentworth, the provincial government and the countless sister agencies and services throughout the area.

As your President, I wish to express my warm appreciation to each and all and last but not least, to the Managing Director and his staff who each and every day of the year, strive to provide the best possible service to the community.

As we move into 1974 and the years to follow, we witness the challenge of a new relationship with the Hamilton-Wentworth region and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. In this respect, we pledge our whole-hearted cooperation in making this a better community for all in which to live.

Respectfully submitted

B. W. Gillespie
President

THE C.A.S. . . .

It's Role
It's Purpose
It's Position in Law

The Child Welfare Act of Ontario under which your Society functions states:

1. Every children's aid society shall be incorporated under The Corporations Act or a predecessor thereof and shall be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

2. Every children's aid society shall be operated for the purposes of,

a. investigating allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protection;
b. protecting children where necessary;
c. providing guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
d. providing care for children assigned or committed to its care under this or any other Act;
e. supervising children assigned to its supervision under this or any other Act;
f. placing children for adoption;
g. assisting the parents of children born out of wedlock or likely to be born out of wedlock and their children born out of wedlock;
h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.

3. Every society shall provide at least the standard of services prescribed by the regulations.

KEEPING THE FAMILY TOGETHER

Years ago, when you used the word "family" the meaning was fairly clear - a mother, father, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Also, when you used the word "neighbourhood" you had an impression of an area shared by a group of families with mutual interests and concern for each other.

Today these words often do not mean the same thing. "Family", may mean an unmarried teenager living alone with her baby, a deserted or divorced mother and her children, a couple united in a common-law relationship, or a communal type of arrangement. These "families" may live very isolated lives in "neighbourhoods" where roots are shallow and social workers are not surprised at finding - as we recently did - a child who has been in 28 different schools in a two year period.

Social conditions like these have had a tremendously damaging impact on both parents and children and have necessitated a greater emphasis on preventative services by our agency. New programs and techniques have also been devised to deal with the difficulties faced by an increasing number of single parents and by parents who are unable to cope with their teenagers or vice versa. Increased stress is being placed on group and family counselling. For this reason, several new staff training programs in family therapy and group work have been initiated during the past year.

Initial attempts to experiment in decentralized services have led to the decision to place a "detached worker" at the Victoria Park Northwest Community Organization headquarters on York Street, and to detail one staff member to act as a liaison person with the Dundas community.

Auxiliary services such as therapeutic craft programs have been introduced which are designed to provide mothers and children with creative experiences and also to give them a place where they can share their problems and feelings with others. Volunteers also play a large part by acting as "special friends", tutors and therapeutic drivers. Not the least of their contributions is a Play School for pre-school children, conducted at James Street Baptist Church and staffed completely by volunteers. Here children who lack stimulation receive the support and encouragement of dedicated volunteers, most of whom have been active in the Play School for over five years.

Our summer program, included special outings and various types of camp experiences. New this year was a family camp for mothers and children, which proved highly successful. Children from families not associated with the agency were also assisted when we provided facilities for an Opportunities for Youth project designed to teach reading and writing skills to children of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Sheer volume of cases involving teenagers has necessitated the enlargement of our adolescent division staff from three to six social workers.

The initiation of a "cooling off" setting for temporary care of troubled teenagers at Wesley Annex has done much to relieve parent-teenager crises; however, long term resources for teenagers remain an urgent problem for us.

The year has been one of much change and challenge, however, one thing has remained the same, namely, our goal of strengthening families and helping them stay together.

SERVICES TO THE CHILD IN FOSTER CARE

It is not always possible for our Family Services staff to help troubled families work out their difficulties while the child remains in his own home. Also, in some cases, emergencies necessitate removal of the child for his own protection. It may then become necessary for the society to apply to the court for temporary guardianship of the child so that we may place him in the form of foster care best suited to his needs. Active, continuing work by the social worker with the natural parents while a child is in our care, frequently results in a large number of children being returned home. In those cases where family problems prove irresoluble, the court may make a child a Crown Ward. This means that the Children's Aid is given the responsibility of making long term plans for the child either in foster care or through adoption.

For 123 children, between the ages of 6 and 16, our Receiving-Assessment Centre last year provided a temporary neutral setting where their needs could be assessed. More problematical, was the search to find foster homes, particularly for children over 10 years.

In an attempt to attract more foster parents, and also to recognize the tremendous job being done by existing foster parents, our board of directors authorized increased board rates for older children. This resulted in a modest increase of available spaces at year's end. In conjunction with the Halton County and Catholic Children's Aid Societies, we are currently embarking on a special recruitment program to attract even more new and much needed foster parents.

1973 saw not only a concentration by our Placement Resources department on agency-run training programs for foster parents, but also the creation of small group sessions conducted in foster parents' own homes. Further evidence of foster parent involvement was their decision to form a local branch of the Foster Parent Association of Ontario. This move was fully endorsed and welcomed by the society who saw it as a move towards even closer co-operation and understanding between the agency and foster parents.

The heavy concentration of older children in foster care led one group of social workers in the Children's Services department to try a new approach to working with teen-aged girls by means of a therapeutic-activity program. Last summer, part of the program involved week-end camping trips with staff and wards sharing the responsibility for the planning and implementation. The social workers feel these outings have done a great deal to break down communication barriers, and evaluations indicate they are successful in encouraging personal growth in the girls who are participating.

The change in the age concentration of children in foster care has been strongly influenced by the current trend towards young unmarried mothers keeping their babies rather than giving them up for adoption. This means that adoptive applicants who will only accept infants are being warned of waiting periods of up to three years. They are also advised that the children who are available for adoption are those over three years of age who have become Crown Wards. In recognition of the fact that these children may experience greater adjustment difficulties, the agency has instituted a new program of group discussions with prospective adopters and parents who already have adopted children in their homes. By this means, parents are able to share their experiences, feelings and anxieties and thus help each other. This program will likely be expanded in the future.

While shortages of foster and adoptive homes for older children will undoubtedly continue to present problems, the society remains indebted to those foster and adoptive parents who currently share our interest and concern for children of all ages.

FACTS and FIGURES

Population of Hamilton	305,316
Population of Wentworth County	93,456
Children helped in their own homes	2,052
Children in foster or other types of care during year	944
Children returned to parents	288
Children in all categories of substitute care at year end	504
Foster boarding homes in use at end of year	156
Group and Emergency Homes in use at end of year	10
Days care provided during year	184,709
Unmarried mothers assisted throughout the year	172
Financial help from fathers of out of wedlock children	$ 17,148
Children placed for adoption	112
Adoptions completed	103
Citizen members of the Society at year end	1,117
Citizens serving on Board of Directors, Committees and as Volunteers throughout the year	200
Total staff of Society as of year end full and part time	106
Children's Aid Societies in Ontario	50

SUMMARY
REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

As at December 31, 1973

REVENUE		
Hamilton	660,186	
Wentworth	108,235	
Province	$ 1,694,719	$ 2,463,140
OTHER		
Other Societies	19,339	
Family Allowance	24,098	
Divorce Fees	3,900	
Summer Programme	8,118	
Memberships	1,060	
Bank Interest Earned	6,774	
Miscellaneous	6,175	69,464
TOTAL REVENUE		2,532,604
EXPENDITURES		
Direct Cost Re:		
Children in Care		
Foster Boarding Homes	373,524	
Group & Emergency Homes	131,750	
Own-Receiving Assessment Centre	215,264	
Outside Institutions	428,663	
Clothing	54,635	
Health	34,539	
Education	5,090	
Transportation	6,889	
Other Needs	10,850	
Miscellaneous	1,177	1,262,381
Service to Families & Unmarried Parents		
Professional Services	689,864	
Travel & Accommodation	34,693	
Other Services	22,872	747,429
Administrative Costs		
Senior Management	68,602	
Secretarial, Accounting & Statistical	159,341	
Maintenance	12,053	
Pensions & Benefits	29,582	
Conference & Staff Training	6,691	
Utilities & Accommodation	23,759	
Telephone	22,460	
Postage	4,192	
Public Relations Programme	6,986	
Association Membership Fees	2,537	
General Expense & Equipment	20,217	
Provision For Debenture Debt	69,403	
Sundries	90	425,913
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		2,435,723
TOTAL REVENUE		2,532,604
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE		96,881

AUDITORS: Fenton, Swing & Sinnamon
An audited statement of the Society's financial operations for the year 1973 is available for study at the Society's office, upon request.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS
1973-1974

HONORARY PRESIDENT
Dr. Lloyd D. Jackson*

HONORARY SOLICITORS
Mr. N.W. Byrne, Q.C.* Mr. J.E. Milne, Q.C.
Mr. J.F. Reesor, Q.C.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President ..... Mr. B.W. Gillespie
Past President ..... Mrs. J.D. Fleming
Vice Presidents ..... Mr. S.M. Fletcher
Mr. H.M. Hines, Q.C.
Treasurer ..... Mr. L. Thomas
Managing Director ..... Mr. J.G. Finlay

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Mr. J.E. Adamson
Mr. G.W. Brown
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Mr. S. Davidson
Dr. A.J. Denholm
Councillor G. Etherington
Mr. R.W. Ford
Mr. W.J. Found
Mr. C. Frater
Mr. G. Harris
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Mrs. A. Lupton
Mrs. G.C. McAuley
Mr. M.L. McKnight
Mr. T. Moore
Mrs. R. Ralph
Mr. J.R. Sams
Mr. R. Spoar
Alderman Dr. J. Stowe
Mr. A. Taylor
Mr. L.D. Thomas
Dr. B. Wharf

* Deceased

children's aid society
hamilton-wentworth

annual report 1974

newsletter

OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

IIRB/MUN

Annual Report 1975 President's Message

With this report I conclude my first year as your President. I trust the points contained in this Annual Report will afford you some insight into the work of the Society particularly as it related to the year just ended.

In my role as President, I have had an opportunity to view the efforts of the Society with a broad perspective. Each of us, Board and staff, has tried to serve the family life of this growing community to the best of our individual and collective abilities.

1974 was a year of change and regrouping of responsibilities and priorities not only locally, but provincially as well. To be more specific, in early 1974 we stood on the threshold of Regional government and the complete reorganization of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. One could correctly assess the year as one of trial, error and experimentation for us all.

In the past, our agency affiliation from the funding point of view, has been with the City of Hamilton, County of Wentworth and the Province of Ontario. Now the city and county have come together as one, so that our new relationship is to the Region, not two separate municipalities.

Unfortunately, due to the pressures of reorganization in the Ministry, our budget estimates for 1974 did not receive official approval until September 16th, thus much of our year long planning for 1974 had to be curtailed to adapt to the provincial time schedule.

In spite of the frequently felt frustration, we were fortunate to receive excellent co-operation throughout the year from both the Region and the Province. We were particularly pleased with the interest shown by the regional appointees to our board. Their participation not only in the work of the board, but also with the various committees, was of the highest order.

As your President, I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to our foster, group and emergency home parents. They have contributed so much to the well-being of nearly 1,000 children who required substitute care at some point in 1974. Without them, our efforts to provide real evidence of stability in their young lives, would have been wasted.

In addition to our foster parents, I would add our thanks to the scores of volunteers who, under the direction of our Volunteer Co-ordinator, made such a tremendous contribution to hundreds of children and families. Truly can it be said there is a place for volunteers in today's agency efforts.

The year just ended also saw your board and staff heavily committed to activities of an innovative nature designed to strengthen our preventative program. These are highlighted elsewhere in this report.

In bringing these remarks to a close, I cannot let the opportunity pass to express my appreciation to each and every board, committee and staff member who conscientiously worked to formulate and carry out policies and programs designed for the well being of the community which we serve.

As we move forward into the second half of the decade, we pledge ourselves to the strengthening of our efforts on behalf of those whose lot in life has not been what we would like it to be.

People Who Care

At only $2 per person, membership in the Children's Aid Society is still one of the best bargains around. Membership provides not only a vote at the Annual Meeting, but also a subscription to the O.A.C.A.S. Journal and our own Newsletter. Show you care! Join today!

1974—A Year of New Society Programs

The following is a summary of some of the programs introduced or carried out throughout the past year:

- The development of a Day Care Centre in collaboration with Mohawk College at our headquarters at 143 Wentworth Street South.
- Decentralization of some of our services through the placement of a community-based liaison worker with:
  - The Victoria Park Northwest Community Organization
  - The North End Residents Organization
  - The Mental Health Department Children's and Adolescent Centre in the east end of the city
  - The Eastgate Community Services Organization
  - The Dundas Community Development Committee
- Financial assistance to the Single Parent Area Committee to assist single parents to utilize community programs.
- The introduction of a children's choir conducted by a volunteer.
- Euchre party organized by one of our mothers' groups to raise money for the Family Camp.
- Summer program involving 300 children.
- Family Camp for 10 mothers and 32 children in collaboration with the YWCA.
- Camp reunion supper for parents and children who attended the Family Camp.
- Continuation of our successful volunteer run Play School at James Street Baptist Church involving 28 children of preschool age.
- Play School picnic for children and parents.
- Collaboration with McMaster University, Department of Psychiatry in a research program about "Girls in Need of Protection".
- Weekly craft groups for mothers, children of all ages and single parents.
- Christmas Party for 50 teenaged clients of our Adolescent Unit and their friends.
- Introduction of the Help-Line which provides a recorded message to help single pregnant girls become aware of the services available through the CAS.
- Sensory stimulation of young children in their own homes as a means of developing intellectual potential.
- Play therapy for young boys conducted by Social Services students from Mohawk.

Diane Cresswell, Children's Aid social worker at the Victoria Park Northwest Community Organization and two teenaged visitors.

Operation Outreach

For many years, our society has been responsible for services to assist families and protect children.

Traditionally, these services have been centralized at our headquarters on Wentworth Street South and families have either approached the society on their own for specific forms of assistance or they have been referred by other persons in the community.

More recently, changes in the Child Welfare Act have placed added emphasis on the development of services of a preventative nature in addition to those of a protective nature. This has led to a concerted move by our society toward reaching a process of "detaching" social workers from our Wentworth Street office and placing them in established organizations in various sections of the Hamilton-Wentworth Region.

The first "detached" worker was located at Victoria Park Northwest Community Organization, a community self-help group in the north-west section of the city. Already in operation at V.P.N.C.O. were services such as legal aid and welfare rights counselling, home improvement and day care. The goal of the organization is to improve the quality of life for residents in the area; and the introduction of a C.A.S. social worker adds a new dimension to the services already in existence. For instance, a client approaching the legal aid consultant for help with a problem such as a separation agreement, might be referred - on the spot - to the C.A.S. social worker for counselling regarding an associated problem such as a child with behavioural problems caused by the marital upset.

Besides working with clients on a "case" basis, one of the major responsibilities of the social worker is also to become involved in local community programs such as the Single Parent Area Committee which could be seen as "preventative" programs aimed at avoiding situations in which children might be at risk.

Similar services are provided by social workers attached to other community based organizations such as N.E.R.O. (North End Residents' Organization) and Contact Dundas, an information and referral service located in the Dundas area. As part of their responsibilities, the workers also act as liaison persons with local police, health and school officials.

Slightly different in concept was the placement of a C.A.S. social worker in the east end office of the Children and Adolescents' Services which is operated by the Hamilton-Wentworth Health Department. In this instance, we function as part of a mental health team.

The fifth worker to reach out toward the community is physically based at our Wentworth Street office, at the present time, but his responsibility is to assess the needs of the community surrounding the office which contains a high concentration of open, active C.A.S. cases. He will then work with other agencies in the immediate community in setting up preventative programs.

For C.A.S., "Operation Outreach" is an exciting new concept in the delivery of service to families in need. The Child Welfare Act may legislate what we must do, but new programs such as Operation Outreach are showing us how we can fulfill these obligations. By moving out into the community, we hope to become more accessible to people needing service, and also to become more involved in identifying community needs.

Adoption Today

Adoption in the 70's has changed considerably when compared with the adoption picture in previous decades.

A shortage of infants now exists and the children who are available are the ones formerly considered "hard to place": the older, handicapped and mixed racial.

As social conditions and attitudes to adoption have changed, applicants' expectations in regard to adoption have changed. No longer are they interested in only infants. Instead, they are exhibiting a willingness to consider whatever types of children are available.

Several methods of publicizing the availability of older children are used by our Society. For instance, they are listed with the Provincial Adoption Exchange which sends out monthly bulletins to all the Societies throughout the province and sponsors twice-yearly Provincial Adoption conferences. Information about approved applicants who are waiting for children is also circulated in the bulletins and at the conference.

The widely-read newspaper column, "Today's Child" and the television program "Family Finder" represent two of the most successful means of advertising children to the general public.

On a more personal level, are the "Adoption Parties" which have been held in conjunction with several adjoining agencies. At these events, approved applicants get a chance to meet available older children informally. While there is no commitment to a particular child prior to the party, many successful matchings of children and applicants have occurred as a result.

In recognition of the fact that today's older adopted children may have special needs, several ongoing groups for adoptive parents have been set up. These groups which are conducted by social workers, provide a means for parents to share both their feelings and experiences.

The New F.P.A.

Most foster parents face similar problems in dealing with children who are separated from their natural parents. For this reason, there is a tremendous advantage to foster parents meeting together to share their experiences.

During the past year, tremendous strides in this direction have been made by our recently formed Foster Parent Association, whose president is a group home foster father, Nick Nadel. The Association was active, not only in encouraging foster parent involvement in educational programs, but also in sharing matters of concern to foster parents with senior administrative personnel.

In addition to its more formal responsibilities, the Foster Parent Association organized several social events for foster families.

Your C.A.S. Today and Yesterday

At a well-attended meeting on January 22, 1894, a Children's Aid Society was organized in Hamilton. This was largely the result of the efforts of the Honourable John M. Gibson, a Hamiltonian who, with John Joseph Kelso, had been responsible for the passage of the Children's Protection Act in 1892.

In the early days, the Society functioned on a basis of volunteer assistance largely through the Ladies Visiting Committee, and a secretary, Mr. William Hunter. Money to provide service was derived from paid memberships, donations, and a City Council grant of $150.00 per year.

From this humble beginning the Society grew to an organization with a budget in the millions, employing a staff of 112.

Originally, the Society serviced the entire population of Hamilton. However, in 1954, with the incorporation of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton as a separate entity, our Society's function became that of providing service to all non-Catholic families.

In 1966 amalgamation with the Children's Aid Society of Wentworth County took place; and the new organization was known as the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton - Wentworth.

The Children's Aid Society

ITS ROLE

ITS PURPOSE

ITS POSITION IN LAW

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1. Every Children's Aid Society shall be incorporated under The Corporations Act or a predecessor thereof and shall be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

2. Every Children's Aid Society shall be operated for the purposes of:

a. investigating allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protection;
b. protecting children where necessary;
c. providing guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
d. providing care for children assigned or committed to its care under this or any other Act;
e. supervising children assigned to its supervision under this or any other Act;
f. placing children for adoption;
g. assisting the parents of children born out of wedlock or likely to be born out of wedlock and their children born out of wedlock;
h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.

3. Every Society shall provide at least the standard of services prescribed by the regulations.

Board of Directors and Officers 1973-74

HONORARY SOLICITORS

Mr. J.E. Milne, Q.C. Mr. J.F. Reesor, Q.C.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Mr. S.M. Fletcher
Past President	Mr. B.W. Gillespie
Vice Presidents	Mr. H.M. Hines, Q.C.
	Mr. J.R. Sams
Treasurer	Mr. S. Davidson
Managing Director	Mr. J.G. Finlay

DIRECTORATE

Dr. J.C. Allison
Mr. G.W. Brown
Mr. M. Carter
Dr. A.J. Denholm
Mr. G. Etherington
*Mr. J. Farnworth
Mrs. R.W. Ford
Mr. W.J. Found
Mr. C. Frater
Mr. G. Harris
Mr. L. Haverty
Miss T. Iredale
Mrs. K. Jones
Mr. J.O. Kern
Mrs. A. Lupton
Mrs. G.C. McAuley
Mr. M. McKnight
Mrs. B. Monti
Supt. J. Patterson
*Mr. J. Southall
Mr. R. Spoar
*Mr. I. Stout
*Dr. J. Stowe
Mr. L. Thomas
Dr. B. Wharf

* Regional Councillor

Some Facts and Figures

Population of the Regional Municipality of Hamilton - Wentworth	401,421
Children helped in their own homes	2,197
Children in foster or other types of care during year	980
Children returned to parents	384
Children in all categories of substitute care at year end	462
Foster boarding homes at end of year	218
Group Homes and Emergency Homes at end of year	11
Days Care during year	177,029
Days Care in Paid Institutions	28,459
Single parents assisted throughout the year	116
Children placed for adoption	77
Adoptions completed	76
Citizen members of the Society at year end	997
Citizens serving on Board of Directors, Committees and as volunteers throughout the year	200
Total staff of Society at year end full and part time	112
Children's Aid Societies in Ontario	50

Summary of Revenue and Expenditures
As Of December 31, 1974

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	$ 1,866,861	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	861,879	$ 2,728,740
Other		
Other Societies	$27,869	
Department of National Health and Welfare	86,614	
Official Guardian Reports	3,962	
Summer Programme Donations	7,750	
Memberships	1,791	
Mohawk Day Care Centre	1,950	
Research Design Project	4,156	
Bank Interest Earned	11,602	
Miscellaneous	850	$ 146,544
TOTAL REVENUE		$2,875,284

TOTAL REVENUE

EXPENDITURES

Children In Care		
Foster Boarding Homes	$ 412,881	
Group and Emergency Homes	119,077	
Own Receiving Assessment Centre	244,315	
Outside Institutions	640,113	
Clothing	60,200	
Health	34,027	
Education	8,137	
Transportation	6,198	
Other Needs	12,326	
Miscellaneous	1,649	$ 1,538,923
Service to Families		
Professional Services	$ 745,528	
Travel and Accommodation	38,277	
Other Services	22,796	$ 806,601
Administration		
Senior Management	$ 78,562	
Secretarial, Accounting and Statistical	165,926	
Maintenance	13,040	
Pensions and Benefits	37,524	
Conference and Staff Training	4,518	
Utilities and Accommodation	24,020	
Telephone	22,425	
Postage	4,189	
Public Relations Program	12,930	
Association Membership Fees	2,781	
General Expense and Equipment	28,453	
Provision for Debenture Debt	70,306	
Sundries	30	$ 464,704
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$ 2,810,228
TOTAL REVENUE		$ 2,875,284
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE		$ 65,056

AUDITORS: Fenton, Swing and Company
An audited statement of the Society's financial operation for the year 1974 is available for study at the Society's office, upon request.

Managing Director's Annual Report

From our vantage point, it can be truly said that the 70's belong to the teens. A few short years ago, the highest percentage of children in our foster care were ten years of age and under, with the heaviest concentration in the pre-school grouping. Now, in 1974, we find that 68% are ten years of age and over.

With teenagers and their parents struggling for survival in terms of our changing value system, it is no wonder that "runaways" are up and that "parent-child conflicts" are at an all time high. The resulting impact on our foster care resources has been devastating. This is true throughout the Province. We, in the Hamilton-Wentworth Society, in collaboration with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Halton Region Children's Aid Society, and the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth, have therefore undertaken a three year research program for the purpose of examining the whole question of recruiting and retaining foster parents. This study is being directed by Dr. Barbara Rosenbloom, who received her Doctorate in Sociology from Columbia University. We feel confident that her efforts will benefit the participating Societies and all Children's Aid Societies throughout Ontario.

In addition to our heavy commitment to teenagers, we have been placing much more emphasis on preventative programs. These programs are designed to work within the family unit and to keep families together, thus reducing the number of children in care and the length of stay in care. Interestingly enough, in 1954, we had 818 children in foster care at year's end. Now, twenty years later, we have only 462. In 1974, we admitted 502 children into care, more than at any time in the past eight years. However, we also released from care 500 children, the highest number in the past five years. Here we can see that, while admissions were up in 1974, so were releases. This, we believe, is a desirable goal in the interests of family stability.

What of our preventative work with parents and children while still intact as a family unit? In 1974, we opened more family cases for counselling and related forms of treatment and therapy than at any time in the past five years. We worked with 373 families with an average of three children per home. This year, we closed out 338 family situations, the highest in the past five years. Moving into the year 1975, there were 400 open and active family cases known to the Society. Once again, a five year high. What all this means to us is that we are heavily involved and committed to strengthening family ties. Furthermore, many of our preventative measures seem to be paying off. This is as it should be. The cost to the community and the cost to the child through separation, is often very high and impossible to calculate in dollars alone.

Hopefully, the day may soon be at hand when children in any form of substitute care will prove to be the exception. This, we believe, can be achieved if all the resources of the community work individually and collectively toward reaching this goal.

Community Relations

Letting community groups know what we do and how to use our services is an important part of our agency programming.

Many of these groups include people directly affected by what we do: families, adolescents, single parents, adopting parents, foster parents, volunteers, and members of the society. Other groups encompass potential users of service, professional associates, political figures, and leaders of public opinion.

The methods we use to reach people are many and varied: seminars, distribution of literature, personal interviews, T.V. appearances, participation in radio talk shows, public service announcements, paid advertising, press releases, feature articles in newspapers, special social events at the agency, displays at fairs, speaking engagements, and the use of films such as, "Wherever There Are Children", and "I'm 17, Pregnant, and Don't Know What To Do".

In 1974, we added two major, new public relations programs: the recorded Help Line message to single, pregnant girls, and a multi-purpose Newsletter which is distributed to a mailing list of 3,000 on a quarterly basis.

Child Abuse

During the past year we have been actively involved in a community program designed to identify and treat child abusers.

Suspected or potential abuse cases are picked up at local hospitals through a screening procedure as part of the Home Accident and Injury Study (H.A.I.S.). These cases are then referred to the Community Child Abuse team which is made up of social workers from several agencies (including our own), representatives of Parents Anonymous and various hospital and medical personnel. The job of the team members is to review cases and decide which of the available resources is best suited to help the families involved.

Thanks to H.A.I.S. and the Child Abuse Team, abuse cases are being identified earlier and treated more effectively. This has truly been a community approach to resolving a community problem.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please accept my/our membership in the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

PHONE: _____ AGENCY OR FIRM: _____

_____
SIGNATURE

I enclose $2.00 for each individual membership.

Please indicate if you are:

Volunteer Adopting Parent Donor Interested Person

Membership includes a subscription to the Journal of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies and the privilege of voting for the Board Members of your choice.

SHOW YOU CARE. BECOME A MEMBER TODAY.

New Single Parent Service Introduced

Dial the Help Line at 522-1057 and you will hear a recorded message aimed at single, pregnant girls advising them of some of the services available to them through the C.A.S.

The Help Line was a public relations project introduced in 1974 as a result of the changing trend in services to unmarried parents. For many years our society provided counselling to help pregnant girls look at the various alternatives available to them. However, during the past five years, the number of girls requesting service dropped severely. Initially this was felt to be a result of a falling birth rate due to the availability of birth control measures and legalized abortion. Closer investigation showed that, in reality, there were still a significant number of single parents but they were tending to keep their babies and to avoid approaching social agencies for other than financial assistance. This is the mother's right and one which the C.A.S. does not dispute. What does concern us is the fact that many of these single parents are under 21 and unaware of the community resources available to help them. Recent research based on the current phenomena of single parenthood has shown that it is in the latter part of the baby's first year that the mother is likely to run into difficulty. At this point many young mothers are fearful of approaching Children's Aid because of their lack of understanding of what our services really are.

The Help Line idea, which originated with Niagara Family and Children's Services, aims at giving the single, pregnant girl an idea about some of the questions for which she will need answers. Hopefully, it encourages her to call the society and discuss her situation with a qualified social worker. This gives us the opportunity not only to help the girl with any immediate concerns, but also to show her how we and other agencies may be able to help her if she runs into difficulty later.

In the Niagara area, the Help Line produced a 10 percent increase in single parent inquiries. Thanks to the co-operation of the Hamilton and Wentworth Boards of Education, the medical profession, clergy, other social agencies and the media, we hope our program will produce similar results locally.

Volunteer Program

Many of the agency's most successful projects have been those conducted by our corps of volunteers.

Some volunteers worked on an individual basis as " special friends " to children needing a one-to-one relationship, and others as tutors to children with learning disabilities. Thanks to one volunteer, our used clothing supply was completely reorganized and made available to clients on Tuesday afternoons.

Volunteers working on teams also provided much-needed services. The clerical team rotated between departments and carried out the clerical aspects of the social workers' job thus relieving them for more direct service to clients. Another group worked under the direction of a staff person programming children through special learning exercises designed to improve the intellectual, verbal and motor skills of pre-school children.

Still highly successful was the volunteer run Play School which was in its fifth year of operation with many of its original volunteers still involved. It was held two mornings a week at James Street Baptist Church.

In the summer, when most adult volunteer projects were suspended, teenaged volunteers really took over. They ran a summer Play School for school aged youngsters, which kept them busy for several weeks. Many of these teenagers are planning careers working with children so the summer program was as valuable to them personally as it was to the children.

One of the major problems which affected our volunteer department was the continued shortage of volunteer drivers to transport children to Play School, Summer School and other programs. This was resolved to some extent through the purchase of service from a private bus service. The other problem was the lack of male volunteers of all ages to work with youngsters needing male companionship.

Voluntarism has proven itself to be an integral part of our service to families and we continue to welcome offers of help from citizens who wish to be volunteers.

SPRING 1975 VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

EDITOR - Jessica Davenport
CO-EDITOR - Trisha Iredale
STAFF REPRESENTATIVES - Gerry Arrell, Leith Bartosik, Helen Caldwell, Eileen Dobrucki, Greg Guthrie, Mary Hamilton

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newsletter
OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

ANNUAL REPORT 1975

President's Message 1975

As your President these past two years, I have had an opportunity to view and assess the myriad of problems with which our staff are confronted every day of the year. I have also observed board and staff working together to resolve difficult, frustrating and sometimes seemingly insurmountable problems such as the shortages of financial resources, and foster care resources which cut deeply into the heart of our service to families.

The Board of Directors with whom I have been privileged to work, have addressed themselves to their responsibilities in a most commendable and conscientious manner. The elected board members - some twenty-six in number - are augmented most capably by four appointees from the Regional Council. We have enjoyed their participation in our deliberations as full fledged board members and are deeply indebted to them and the Regional Council for their unfailing support of our efforts.

While in some areas of the province there has been criticism of children's aid boards as they are presently constituted, we, here in Hamilton - Wentworth, feel we have benefitted from the blending of the two streams of citizen participation: our Regional board members and those elected by our membership.

In these days of rapid changes, our policies and programs must be reasonably flexible and fluid. The staff bring many of their concerns for possible policy and/or program change to our Services Committee and from there, in most instances, suggested avenues to pursue are presented to the directorate. This committee meets monthly and is composed of a chairman who is a member of the directorate, board members and citizens at large, including those who have been the beneficiaries of service. It is through a sense of trust and confidence in one another that I feel much has, and will continue to be, accomplished.

It should also be noted in this area of meaningful board - staff relationships that by invitation of the Board, the president of the Staff Association attends board meetings, participates freely and, like the Managing Director, acts as a non voting member of the directorate.

One cannot let this opportunity pass without making special reference to our foster, emergency and group home parents. Our 213 foster family settings are the very backbone of our service program to children. They are not overly compensated in a financial way. In fact, many dig deep into their own resources to augment what we are able to provide in order to assure that our children in their care do not go lacking. No words, no tangible expressions or tokens of appreciation, can ever equal the debt we owe these good folks. We indeed salute them with pride.

We would also like to voice our sincere thanks to our tremendous corps of volunteers. Their service to families and children and their supportive help to our social workers and office staff are deeply appreciated. In these days of rising costs and governmental constraints, the service provided gratis by our volunteers, represents thousands of hours and dollars throughout the course of the year.

As I end my term as your President, I wish to express my sincere, personal thanks for the opportunity of serving you, the Society and the community; and to my successor, I extend my very best wishes for a rich and satisfying term as President of the Society.

Steve Fletcher

Services to Families

Our greatest responsibility under the Child Welfare Act, is to assist families whose problems are affecting their children. Our goal is to do our utmost to keep these families together.

Last year we worked with 4,159 families and individuals whose difficulties included marital discord, alcoholism, desertion, child abuse, mental and physical illness and parental difficulty in coping with child behavior. Many of these families were self-referred; the balance were referred to us by other agencies in the community and concerned citizens, friends and relatives; over 8000 children were involved; and the largest percentage of these children were helped in their own homes. In situations where this was not possible, applications were made to the court for a temporary transfer of guardianship and the children placed in foster care. In others, some were admitted on a "non ward" basis with the full consent of their parents. While children are in care, we continue to work with their parents with the hope of returning the youngsters home as quickly as possible.

Two trends were noticed during 1975: an increase in the number of single parent families needing help and younger two parent families having trouble in handling their children even at an early age. Behind these presenting problems were broader implications of an increasing lack of basic parenting skills and a tremendous sense of isolation and loneliness in many families. In the "old days" there were grandparents, aunts and uncles, and other relatives who helped young parents to cope with problems; today, social agencies such as ours try to take the place of these extended families.

Also included in our services to families was counselling for unmarried mothers, who today tend to be younger teenagers who are planning to keep their babies. Over the past five years there has been a significant decrease in the number of girls seeking our help. However, there are signs that the decrease is beginning to level off. Preventive programs developed by our community workers; numerous speaking engagements in high schools, and a telephone service called the Help Line (designed to encourage girls to request counselling to help them in the job of raising their babies alone) undoubtedly played a part in this levelling off.

Child Abuse

During 1975, our agency actively participated in a multi - discipline Community Abuse Team designed not only to protect children, but also to provide counselling and other help to abusive and potentially abusive families. An excellent network of reporting and treatment facilities was established which included our engaging a social worker as a key liaison person with other agencies and medical resources in the handling of specific abuse situations.

A film on child abuse was purchased which will, in future, play an important part in a public relations program designed to acquaint individuals and professionals in the community with their responsibility to report suspected abuse cases.

Jack Finlay
Managing Director's Report

It is difficult to reflect upon the trials and tribulations of the year just ended, without taking cognizance of the position we find ourselves in as we stand "just over the threshold of 1976".

Before the next twelve months have passed, we may well reflect upon the years through which we have come as the glory days of child welfare. We take pride as a board, as a staff both individually and as a group, in the innovative programs we have tried to introduce and to carry through to fulfillment in the year just ended.

We look with appreciation and concern to the words in this report which begin with, "The Children's Aid Society - its role - its purpose - its position in law". Have we measured up to this mandate? Where have we failed? Why and how have we failed? Will the new and reality of budgeting restraints which first saw the light of day in mid December, deter or impede our efforts throughout the year into which we are now well launched? Can we learn from the past year? Can we make the adjustments that will be required of us and still strive for and hopefully attain, meaningful goals on behalf of families and children in 1976?

1975 as will be noted by reference to the statistical information, cold and impersonal as it may be, still holds out some significant sign posts by which we can and should be guided.

Is it not significant or a positive sign that we opened more family situation cases for meaningful staff input in 1975 than at any time in the past five years? We would like to think that public awareness of our existence and that we can be a source of much needed help, is the real reason for the higher figure, not necessarily that there are more people in need. It is very rare indeed for a new service to be developed or a new agency to take root and not to experience a growth pattern in the first few years. In other words, the more you offer the more you tend to discover in terms of unmet needs. This has been very evident in the community outreach programs we were able to launch in 1975.

In similar statistical vein, it is of interest to note that we admitted more children to care, released more and had in 1975 a comparatively slight increase in total days care over the previous year and considerably less than the years 1971 to 1973. The credit for returning children to their homes must go to our staff and foster parents alike, for the intensity of their input in re-establishing families and children.

As mentioned in the President's Report, we are still alarmed at the increased erosion of our foster care resources. How do we recruit and hold on to more people in the child caring role? Is more training or preparation for foster parenthood the answer? Is more money with which to care for the child the answer? Are we asking too much of people to take on the responsibility of one or more acting out teenagers? It is not only our Society that is experiencing this problem, it is province, yes, nation-wide. It is to be hoped our three year research program under the guidance of Dr. Barbara Rosenblum and in its final stages, may provide us with some of these much needed answers.

Once again, I would like to add my personal word of thanks to that of our President in paying tribute to our somewhat reduced but nevertheless still large and determined group of foster and group home parents.

From the financial point of view, we ended the year with a .45% deficit and much credit here is due our Treasurer, Mr. Stewart Davidson, and our staff for enabling us to remain so close to the estimated expenditure pattern for the year.

The year 1975 was the year many of our innovative programs took root and began to show real dividends in terms of service to people. The frightening and disheartening thing is that the budget restraints announced in December of 1975 will undoubtedly make deep and scarring inroads on the progress we have made, for we are being asked to operate in 1976 at a figure by way of increase, which is less than the cost of living these past twelve months. We are in fact, actually falling behind rather than holding our own as it were.

For your board and your staff these will be trying and demanding months that lie ahead. We must take a look at all programs and regroup our priorities if we hope to survive financially.

Does the Child Welfare Act require further amending, so that what we are called upon to do by law, can in fact, be appropriately supported financially? Is our mandate too broad? When are we justified in saying no to the courts when referring children we haven't the resources to provide for? What does the community have a right to ask us to do, to accomplish, to succeed in? These are the questions we will be addressing ourselves to in 1976 and perhaps for the decade ahead.

All we ask of you the citizens is your patience, your understanding and your prayers as we endeavour to fulfill our responsibilities to the children of this community.

Services to Children

While the goal of our work with families is to keep children in their own homes, this is not always possible due to some parents' inability to adequately care for their children or emergency situations within the family.

In these cases, the Child Welfare Act requires us to provide some form of alternate care. This may mean either a foster home, a group home maintained by the society, a privately-run group setting from which we purchase service or a treatment setting.

Three trends have been noted in regard to the population of children in various forms of foster care: 1. an increase in the number of admissions to care throughout the year, 2. a decrease in the length of time many of the children are in care consistent with our goal of returning children to their own homes as quickly as possible, 3. an overall increase in the percentage of children over 12 years of age in foster care.

The children over 12 tend to remain longer in foster care if we are unable to alter the circumstances of their own home to the point where they can return. They are also the youngsters who - if they become Crown Wards - are least likely to move on to adoption due to the reluctance of many adoptive applicants to consider older children. The resulting lack of movement of these children either back to their own homes or on to adoption has meant a tying up of available foster home resources; and due to a decrease in the number of applications from prospective foster parents who will accept older children, the shortage of foster homes has become acute.

In recognition of the severity of the problem, our Placement Resources Unit joined with the Catholic Children's Aid Society and the Niagara Region Family and Children's Services, in conducting a multi-media advertising campaign to recruit new foster families for teenagers. The three agencies, together with the Halton Region and Toronto societies also made an approach to the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies asking that they-on behalf of all Ontario societies-attempt to interest provincial authorities in a year-long, professionally-designed advertising program on a province-wide basis.

The provision of care for emotionally disturbed children continued to be a major financial concern to the agency with almost 21% of our total budget being allocated to the purchase of appropriate treatment services for some 65 children at year end.

Summary of Revenue and Expenditures
As Of December 31, 1975

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	$ 2,570,800	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton - Wentworth	642,700	$ 3,213,500
Other Societies	$ 40,360	
Department of National Health and Welfare	91,986	
Official Guardian Reports	4,455	
Summer Programme Donations	9,153	
Memberships	1,336	
Mohawk Day Care Centre	7,800	
Research Design Project	3,541	
Bank Interest Earned	5,677	164,308
TOTAL REVENUE		$ 3,377,808

EXPENDITURES

Children In Care		
Foster Boarding Homes	$ 539,124	
Group and Emergency Homes	119,477	
Special Services Unit	280,198	
Outside Institutions	697,835	
Clothing	75,053	
Health	38,639	
Education	7,125	
Transportation	6,223	
Other Needs	20,323	
Miscellaneous	1,541	$ 1,785,538
Service To Families		
Professional Services	$ 944,961	
Travel and Accommodation	46,134	
Other Services	33,237	$ 1,024,332
Administration		
Senior Management	$ 92,115	
Secretarial, Accounting and Statistical	235,839	
Maintenance	16,728	
Pensions and Benefits	38,289	
Conference and Staff Training	5,467	
Utilities and Accommodation	29,179	
Telephone	24,681	
Postage	4,658	
Public Relations Program	17,582	
Association Membership Fees	3,100	
General Expense and Equipment	43,924	
Provision for Debenture Debt	70,152	
Sundries	791	$ 582,505
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$ 3,392,375
TOTAL REVENUE		$ 3,377,808
EXPENDITURE IN EXCESS OF REVENUE		$ 14,567

AUDITORS: Fenton, Swing and Company
An audited statement of the Society's financial operation for the year 1975 is available for study at the Society's office, upon request.

Your C.A.S. Today and Yesterday

At a well attended meeting on January 22, 1894, a Children's Aid Society was organized in Hamilton. This was largely the result of the efforts of the Honourable John M. Gibson, a Hamiltonian who, with John Joseph Kelso, had been responsible for the passage of the Children's Protection Act in 1892.

In the early days, the society functioned on a basis of volunteer assistance largely through the Ladies Visiting Committee, and a secretary, Mr. William Hunter. Money to provide service was derived from paid memberships, donations, and a City Council grant of $150.00 per year.

From this humble beginning the society grew to an organization with a budget in the millions, employing a staff of 125.

Originally, the society serviced the entire population of Hamilton. However, in 1954, with the incorporation of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton as a separate entity, our society's function became that of providing service to all non-Catholic families.

In 1966, amalgamation with the Children's Aid Society of Wentworth County took place; and the new organization was known as the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton - Wentworth.

The Children's Aid Society

ITS ROLE
ITS PURPOSE
ITS POSITION IN LAW

The Child Welfare Act of Ontario under which your Society functions states:

1. Every Children's Aid Society shall be incorporated under The Corporations Act or a predecessor thereof and shall be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

2. Every Children's Aid Society shall be operated for the purposes of:

a. investigating allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protection;
b. protecting children where necessary;
c. providing guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
d. providing care for children assigned or committed to its care under this or any other Act;
e. supervising children assigned to its supervision under this or any other Act;
f. placing children for adoption;
g. assisting the parents of children born out-of-wedlock or likely to be born out of wedlock and their children born out of wedlock;
h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.

3. Every Society shall provide at least the standard of services prescribed by the regulations.

Board of Directors and Officers
1975-76

HONORARY SOLICITORS

Mr. J. E. Milne, Q.C. — Mr. J. F. Reesor, Q.C.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Mr. S. M. Fletcher
Past President	Mr. B. W. Gillespie
Vice Presidents	Mr. H. M. Hines, Q.C.
	Mr. J. R. Sams
Treasurer	Mr. S. Davidson
Managing Director	Mr. J. G. Finlay

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Miss J. Campbell
Dr. A. J. Denholm
Mr. G. Etherington
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Mr. M. L. McKnight
Miss P. Nevidon
Supt. J. Patterson
Mr. J. M. Reesor
* Mr. J. Southall
Mr. R. Spoar
* Mr. I. Stout
* Dr. J. Stowe
Mr. L. Thomas

* Regional Councillor
** Deceased

Some Facts and Figures

ACCUMULATIVE JAN. - DEC.	1971	1975
*Admitted to care through Family Services Department	259	468
*Admitted to care through Unmarried Parents Unit	116	45
*Children discharged from care	432	511
*New and re-opened Family Services cases	254	379
*Closed Family Services cases	278	357
Family Services caseload	337	422
*New and re-opened Unmarried Parents cases	172	92
*Closed Unmarried Parents cases	218	90
Unmarried Parents caseload	156	43
*Applications to adopt	232	122
*Children placed on adoption	127	81
Total children in care	564	464
*Applications to board	97	80
*Total paid board days care	137,275	105,963
*Total paid institution days	15,691	26,568

Foster Parent Association Filling Useful Role

Pictured above centre - with Managing Director, Jack Finlay - is Nik Nadel, group home foster father and President of our Foster Parent Association.

The F.P.A., which has only been in existence for 2 years has proved highly successful and has been instrumental in creating an avenue of two-way communication between the foster parents, the staff and the administration of our agency. It achieves it's multi-directional thrust through the four business and educational meetings which it holds annually, a quarterly newsletter and representation on the agency Services and Public Relations Committees.

The budget provided by the agency has enabled the F.P.A. to provide worthwhile educational opportunities for foster parents such as sponsored attendance at the F.P.A. of Ontario Conference and at evening courses in Child Care at Mohawk College. It also made possible the purchase of books and a film for use in foster parent education.

In addition to participating with social workers in a workshop at the F.P.A. of Ontario Conference held at McMaster in June, members of the F.P.A. also planned and carried out a highly successful Christmas Party which was attended by almost 600 foster parents and children.

Truly this fledgling organization has accomplished much, in a very short period of time, by promoting a deeper understanding of the common concerns shared by foster parents, board members and staff in our work with children.

Community Program: A Preventive Service

Increasing emphasis on the role of the C.A.S. in the prevention of family situations which might lead to the neglect or mistreatment of children, last year led us to develop a unit of social workers whose main responsibility was to become involved in helping various communities to resolve local problems which were affecting the quality of family life.

The approaches used by the community workers varied according to the district to which they were assigned. For instance, in the Wentworth Street area, the community needs identified were for day nursery facilities for pre-schoolers, recreation for lonely adults, and assistance with legal problems. The solutions involved assisting a group of mothers to set up the Honey Bears Parent-Participation Co-operative Nursery School; initiating an Adult Community Centre in our auditorium on Thursday evenings which provides games, crafts and a babysitting service; and attempting to set up a Legal Aid Clinic on our premises. Organizational assistance was also given to residents in forming the Gibson Neighbourhood Community Council, which hopes to play an active part in determining how a Federal Neighbourhood Improvement Program grant will be used to meet the needs of the Gibson area.

In the north end, we helped the North End Residents' Organization set up a lunch hour and after school supervision program for the school-aged children of working parents, and planned to develop a "neighbourhood aide" project to provide temporary emergency foster care for local youngsters. In the east end-Stoney Creek district-where our worker was operating out of the Child and Adolescent Services unit of the Mental Health Clinic-we were working with the YWCA, YMCA and the Vincent Community Council, to assist community groups to deal with specific social issues and problems such as recreation and community use of schools. The social worker was also acting as a liaison between the C.A.S. and the community; a consultant to a mental health team and a co-leader in a parent education group.

In the Dundas area, our liaison worker worked closely with the citizen-run Dundas Community Development Council in identifying local needs and in giving direct service to area residents. A typical community program in which we became involved, was a group program to identify and help children with learning disabilities.

As well as helping people in a preventive way, our community programs have done much, we feel, to increase community knowledge of the services of the C.A.S. and our concern for families.

Services to Adolescents

Three years ago we had a team of two social workers whose sole responsibility was to deal with all cases where a conflict between a parent and their teenager was the main presenting problem. The number of these cases has grown so greatly, that today we have a special Adolescent Unit with seven social workers, one social work student, a supervisor and a clerical assistant. At least half of the families being seen are middle-class families and in many cases, the contact with C.A.S. is initiated by the adolescent himself.

Most of the adolescents being seen by the unit, are youngsters who are unable to accept the control of their parents or who are exhibiting pre-delinquent behaviour. The counselling emphasis is on family therapy with the goal of keeping the family together, and individual therapy to stem the drift toward delinquency.

Volunteer Services

The role of the social worker with families and children is an important one. Equally important, however, is the voluntary service of concerned citizens who work closely with the professional staff.

We are fortunate in having volunteers who provided the following practical forms of assistance:

-Co-ordination of a six-week long program of advertising for recruitment of foster parents.
-Fund raising and planning for a Christmas party for over 100 adolescents.
-One day a week administrative, clerical duties carried out by a skilled team.
-Complete operation of a used clothing service for clients of the agency.
-Conducting a choir for children and mothers.
-Establishment of a play therapy toy cupboard.
-Acting as "special friends" for adults and children of all ages.
-Running a Play School for pre-school youngsters.

All of these excellent volunteer programs do much to enrich and expand the professional service offered by our agency; and we only wish it were possible to show our gratitude by giving individual mention of each and every volunteer.

Despite the excellent contribution already being made by our present volunteers, we continue to welcome inquiries from prospective volunteers of all ages - particularly those with special talents and skills.

Special Services Unit

Due to a lack of local treatment and group home settings, we are often forced to use facilities as far away as Windsor and Bobcaygeon. In an attempt to correct this situation, we set up a Special Services Unit with the specific goal of creating facilities in our own area to meet the specialized needs of youngsters coming into our care.

Plans called for: the creation of Treatment Group Homes for adolescents staffed by foster parents and a child care worker; Six Specialized Treatment Foster Homes for individual children; an Outreach Program with a child care worker providing support to client families in their own homes and to adoptive and foster families in cases where a breakdown was impending; and the conversion of our Receiving-Assessment Centre to a facility providing assessment for children between six and 15 years and treatment for six disturbed adolescent boys.

Adoption Services

During the past five years, there have been tremendous changes in adoption in the whole province of Ontario. A comparison of our agency's statistics certainly indicates the changing picture locally.

Last year we placed only 81 children for adoption. This contrasts with 1971, when a total of 127 children were placed.

A significantly lower number of infants and toddlers are being placed. This we feel is a reflection of the fact that fewer children of this age group are available for adoption. Formerly these children - who were usually the children of unmarried mothers - were given up for adoption by their mothers. Today the trend is for unmarried mothers to keep their children because of changing social mores and increased social services for single parents.

During 1975, 122 couples approached the agency to discuss the possibility of adoption; however, only 73 proceeded with actual applications once they were told in an initial interview that applicants for infants and toddlers usually face a lengthy waiting period and that only older children are readily available. These older children normally are Crown Wards who have become available for adoption as a result of a total breakdown in their natural family.

Numerous means are used to find homes for older children including the Provincial and Federal Adoption Exchange listings; the Provincial Adoption Conferences, where information about available children and applicants is shared; the Sunday afternoon television series, Family Finder; the newspaper column, Today's Child; and locally, the adoption parties where applicants are able to meet some of the children for whom the other media for locating parents have not proved successful.

Greater on-going contact between our society and adoptive families has resulted from the increase in adoption placements of older children. Often these children have more emotional and adjustment problems; and discussion groups for adoptive parents, both before and after placement, have become an accepted and successful means of providing support, encouragement and an understanding of the problems. Parents who adopt children of different races are also encouraged to become members of the Open Door Society where they can share their experiences with similar adoptive parents.

While single parent adoptions are considered by our agency, these remain in the minority except for handicapped or older children for whom there are no two parent families available.

Creative Play For Pre-schoolers

One of our newest programs which has attracted considerable attention from local mental health professionals and specialists in early childhood education, has been the "Learning Through Play" program conducted in connection with our Craft department.

Often children from families with whom we are working, are intellectually disadvantaged as a result of their parents' inability to provide the stimulation and learning experiences which they need as a foundation for future formal education in a school setting. Our program attempts to correct this situation by having a creative play specialist visit in the home, not only to provide the child with stimulation, but also to teach the parents the importance of play in the social, physical and emotional development of their children. By involving the parents in the process, we are also teaching them how to enjoy and communicate with their youngsters.

The "play exercises" employ Montessori methods which encourage the development of a child's creative abilities as well as his intellect. They are particularly effective when they are begun in the first year of a child's life.

Another goal of the program is to teach the mothers techniques of guidance and discipline - based on Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs' principles of child management - which can help their children move towards independence. This aspect has proved particularly helpful in cases where abuse of children through overdiscipline has been one of the family's problems.

In addition to our work with pre-schoolers, we have also continued to offer stimulating craft programs for mothers, older children and unmarried mothers from Grace Haven Maternity Home.

Spring 1976 Volume 3 Issue 1

EDITOR - Jessica Davenport
LAYOUT - Lynn Johnston
STAFF REPRESENTATIVES - Gerry Arrell, Leith Bartosik, Helen Caldwell, Eileen Dobrucki, Greg Guthrie, Mary Hamilton.

Please notify the editor at 522-1121 if you have a change of address.

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newsletter
OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

ANNUAL REPORT 1976

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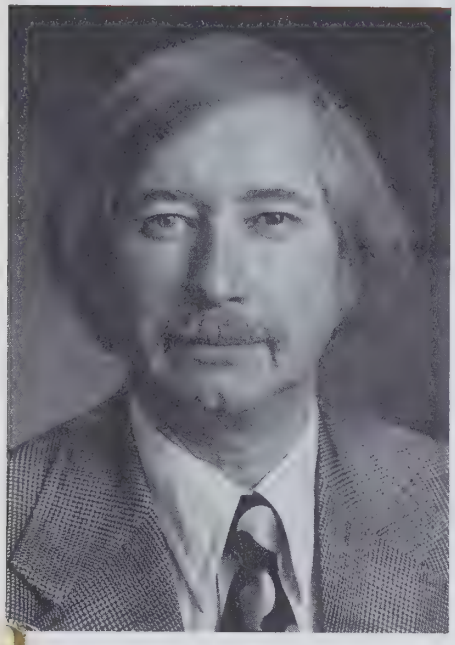

President's Message 1976

For the past twelve months, it has been my privilege to serve as your President. The directorate is a blend of many different backgrounds and levels of input. The 26 members elected by you, the membership, are augmented by four municipal appointees of the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, thus making a total directorate of 30 concerned citizens. Board and committee meeting attendance and participation throughout this past year, has remained high and I am proud to state, that no meeting of the directorate has had to be cancelled for lack of a quorum, in the past twenty-three years.

The role of the directorate in 1976, was as always, a significant factor in the service delivery of the professional staff and the dedicated groups of volunteers and foster parents.

The board is responsible for the development and sanctioning of the Society's policies, objectives, goals and overall program. It must assume the responsibility for the measurement and results of its various programs and is accountable to the total community for the delivery of service to those in need.

The board must also be prepared to address itself to the budgetary needs of the Society in the fulfillment of its legal mandate on behalf of children and their families. Funding must be sufficient to comply with the provisions of the Child Welfare Act and the needs of the community. Your directorate is also responsible for the development of sound personnel practices and for assuring satisfactory working conditions for its staff.

As your President, it is my earnest hope that we as a board of directors have carried out our stewardship to this community throughout 1976 in a noteworthy manner.

Throughout this printed report you will have the opportunity to "sample" as it were, many of the programs and tangible examples of our efforts as a society to meet the ever pressing needs of children and families at this particular time in our history.

We began 1976 with grave doubts as to our ability to survive financially due to announced budgetary constraints. We have however managed to live well within our approved estimates and at the same time, state that no child has knowingly been denied the services to which he or she may have been entitled. This was a year of re-evaluation and stock-taking for board and staff alike. Revised priorities in terms of service input had to be developed consistent with available staff and funds. The actual number of children requiring our services was down considerably over 1976 and the previous years. This trend was experienced by other societies and child caring agencies as well. However, the intensity of the service input was maintained at a high level throughout 1976. Further development of these components is to be found elsewhere in this report.

As your President, I wish to publicly thank all those individuals and groups who have helped us throughout 1976 to provide the best service possible. We are always mindful of new and better ways to enhance our efforts and it is to these that we will be addressing ourselves in 1977 and the years to follow.

Howard M. Hines, Q.C.

Membership on the Increase

At only $2 per person, membership in the Children's Aid Society is still one of the best bargains around. Membership provides not only a vote at the Annual Meeting, but also a subscription to the O.A.C.A.S. Journal and our own Newsletter. Show you care! Join today!

Society Programs Initiated during the Year 1976

- Supportive groups for adoptive parents of older children.
- Representation on provincial and local committees looking at the problem of disclosure of information to adoptees.
- Development of Specialized Foster Homes for assessing the needs of older children.
- Trained Child Care Workers assisted natural parents and foster parents with problems in child management.
- Active part played by Foster Parent Association in social and educational programs, and on board of directors and service committees.
- Remedial Reading Classes conducted by volunteers trained by a member of staff.
- Intensive training of Community Development volunteers in the researching of community needs and the development of relatively new programs.
- Agency participation in the Social Action Fair and Stoney Creek's Recreama.
- Field placement supervision of a McMaster Nursing student, in addition to Mohawk College and McMaster School of Social Work students.
- Active attempts at community education through personal interviews, speaking engagements, panel appearances, seminars and the use of films.
- Christmas assistance to over 154 families and 348 children.
- Summer Activity Program which provided residential and day camp experiences for 216 children, special outings with volunteers and a Family Camp for 25 mothers and children which was combined with a YWCA Senior Citizen Camp on an experimental basis.
- Began a Family Life Education course which included study groups for parents, a parents' conference and a child management course for teachers.
- Reorganization of our Family Service department so that workers are assigned to specific geographical areas.
- Social worker acting as a liaison worker with the Dundas Community Development Council and providing counselling service to the Dundas area.
- Play therapy and learning through play programs for the children of clients.
- Trial run of project to train specially selected foster parents to help abused children and their parents.

Report of the Managing Director, Jack Finlay

As we crossed the threshold from 1975 to 1976, we did so with certain reservations and deep rooted feelings about our service capabilities. This was due in large measure to the announcement made by the Minister of Community and Social Services in December of 1975, that the Children's Aid Societies of Ontario would be held to a 5.5% increase in revenue in 1976 over their 1975 approved estimates.

How could we manage when our "roll-over" costs from 1975 to 1976 alone, absorbed 5.4% of the allowed 5.5% increase? This was due to rates of board increases for foster parents and salary adjustments for staff, which, while introduced part way through 1975, would continue throughout the whole of 1976 and allow for no further adjustments in 1976. A 5.5% increase would eliminate entirely, funds available for staff training and development; conference attendance; a Help Line in the form of a recorded message to single, pregnant girls and young women; foster parent development programs; after school and lunch hour supervised programs for children; staff expansion; group and emergency home expansion; summer program development for children and families and perhaps most significant of all, the phasing out of our Receiving - Assessment program at 954 Barton Street East. These are but a few of the areas of real concern we felt in the early weeks of 1976. What then was our actual experience in 1976? Through the dedicated efforts of our staff association and board of directors, our needs and our deep-felt fears with respect to the "watering down" or elimination of services, were addressed in a positive, constructive and realistic manner. We were finally able to reach agreement with the province, that our increase should be 6.9% not the initial 5.5%; and every component of service delivery was carefully analyzed in order that we might live within these constraints.

In the years immediately previous to 1976, we had experienced a gradually accelerated increase in the number of children admitted to some form of substitute care, particularly in the 10 and up age range. For example, in 1972, we admitted 268 children to care through our Family Services Department, compared with 468 in 1975. What then was ahead of us in 1976? Would it not be conceivable that the figure would be still higher? As for children in institutional settings where daily rates ranged from $20.00 to almost $40.00 or over $14,000 a year per child, what might we expect in 1976? We had to actually budget for 65 children in such settings for 1976 based on the December 31st figure of 1975. This allowed for no appreciable increase in such placements throughout this past year. Now at year end 1976, we find that the number of children admitted to care decreased from 468 to 301; the number of children actually in care at year end was the lowest in over 25 years; 45 children in institutional settings in contrast with the 65 at the end of 1975; a decrease in overall days care from 114,066 in 1975 to 107,685.

While the number of children and "days care" were down there was a slight percentage shift in those children in care who were 13 years of age and over namely 56.68% in 1975 and 60.7% in 1976. Because of their demonstrated desire for freedom, independence and the right to make their own decisions, these are the children we find it increasingly difficult to place, particularly in a foster or group home setting where the "burn out rate" of those in the parenting role is very high. What actually happened in 1976 with respect to the decline in children we do not know for certain. Granted, we tightened up our admissions policy so that only those children indicating the greatest need were admitted to our dwindling foster care resources. Also because there were fewer children to deal with, staff were able to devote more time to their needs. In addition, our preventive programs were strengthened wherever possible. However, we must ask ourselves, was 1976 a unique year? Was it the beginning of a downward trend in children needing our services? Twelve short months is too short a period to use as an appropriate measuring rod. However, had the upward trend of the early 70's continued, we would have been in very serious trouble financially and resource-wise in 1976. We are also finding that while the numbers are down somewhat the quality of the demands are much heavier and the problems more complex.

Yes, in 1976 we experienced many new trends. We also ended the year with the largest financial surplus in the past 23 years. However, with the constraints program still in effect, we will need every available dollar to strengthen our services in 1977 particularly if the child in care admissions should suddenly reverse and once again show signs of increasing. The year 1976 is now history. The year 1977 holds much promise and we shall do our very best to fulfill our obligations to you the citizens of the Hamilton-Wentworth Region.

Services to Families

Under the Child Welfare Act of Ontario we have the responsibility of protecting children under sixteen from neglect and mistreatment. We do this by providing services to parents whose problems include such things as marital discord, alcoholism, mental and physical illness, child abuse and inability to cope with child behaviour. The increase in single parent families, unemployment, poor housing and a lack of close family ties have complicated our efforts: however our goals are still to keep families together and improve the quality of their lives.

In 1976, our agency worked to meet these goals through individual, family and group counselling. Many families asked for help; others were referred to us by concerned individuals and agencies. In most cases, the children remained in their own home while we worked with the family. When this was impossible we either obtained the voluntary consent of the parents or applied to the Court for a temporary transfer of guardianship to enable placement of the children in foster care. While children were in our care we continued to work with their families toward the goal of returning the children. Our statistics indicate clearly the trend to shorter periods of time in foster care for children, and a higher rate of return to their own homes.

In addition to casework services with families, we introduced several accessory preventive services: Family Life Enrichment courses, women's groups for lonely isolated mothers, remedial reading classes and a community development volunteer program.

We are also obliged under the Child Welfare Act to assist unmarried mothers, who today tend to be teenagers planning to keep their babies. Acting in a preventive fashion we joined with several community agencies in setting up Single Parent Prenatal Classes at the YWCA to meet the special needs of these young women. While the physical aspects of prenatal care were handled by public health nurses, social, economic and emotional problems related to the pregnancy were handled by a C.A.S. social worker.

Volunteer Play School Closes

Mrs. Audrey Partridge and her team of volunteers were special guests at our Christmas luncheon following completion of the highly successful seven year project of running a Play School for the children of CAS clients.

Your C.A.S. Today and Yesterday

At a well attended meeting on January 22, 1894, a Children's Aid Society was organized in Hamilton. This was largely the result of the efforts of the Honourable John M. Gibson, a Hamiltonian who, with John Joseph Kelso, had been responsible for the passage of the Children's Protection Act in 1892.

In the early days, the society functioned on a basis of volunteer assistance largely through the Ladies Visiting Committee, and a secretary, Mr. William Hunter. Money to provide service was derived from paid memberships, donations, and a City Council grant of $150.00 per year.

From this humble beginning the society grew to an organization with a budget in the millions, employing a staff of 106.

Originally, the society serviced the entire population of Hamilton. However, in 1954, with the incorporation of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton as a separate entity, our society's function became that of providing service to all non-Catholic families.

In 1966, amalgamation with the Children's Aid Society of Wentworth County took place; and the new organization was known the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton - Wentworth.

The Children's Aid Society

ITS ROLE
ITS PURPOSE
ITS POSITION IN LAW

The Child Welfare Act of Ontario under which your Society functions states:

1. Every Children's Aid Society shall be incorporated under The Corporations Act or a predecessor thereof and shall be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

2. Every Children's Aid Society shall be operated for the purposes of:

a. investigating allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protection;
b. protecting children where necessary;
c. providing guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
d. providing care for children assigned or committed to its care under this or any other Act;
e. supervising children assigned to its supervision under this or any other Act;
f. placing children for adoption;
g. assisting the parents of children born out-of-wedlock or likely to be born out of wedlock and their children born out of wedlock;
h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.

3. Every Society shall provide at least the standard of services prescribed by the regulations.

Board of Directors and Officers 1976-77

HONORARY SOLICITORS

Mr. J. E. Milne, Q.C. — Mr. J. F. Reesor, Q.C.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Mr. H. M. Hines, Q.C.
Past President	Mr. S. M. Fletcher
Vice Presidents	Mr. J. R. Sams
	Supt. J. Patterson
Treasurer	Mr. S. Davidson
Managing Director	Mr. J. G. Finlay

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Dr. J. C. Allison
Miss J. Campbell
Dr. A. J. Denholm
Mr. G. Etherington
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Miss P. Nevidon
Mr. J. M. Reesor
Mr. J. Rowley
Mr. D. E. Seldon
* Mr. J. Southall
Mr. R. Spoar
* Mr. I. Stout
* Dr. J. Stowe
Mr. L. Thomas

* Regional Councillor

Some Facts and Figures

	1972	1976
* Accumulative January - December		
* Admitted to care through Family Services Department	268	301
* Admitted to care through Unmarried Parents Unit	106	46
* Children discharged from care	439	414
* New and re-opened Family Services cases	257	355
* Closed Family Services cases	244	351
Family Services caseload	350	426
* New and re-opened Unmarried Parents cases	156	156
* Closed Unmarried Parents cases	186	127
Unmarried Parents caseload	82	72
* Applications to adopt	178	87
* Children placed on adoption	111	55
Total children in care	499	397
* Applications to board	109	63
* Total paid board days care	128,936	107,685
* Total paid institution days	17,749	19,260

Summary of Revenue and Expenditures
As Of December 31, 1976

Revenue

Province of Ontario	$ 2,750,536	
Regional Munipality of Hamilton - Wentworth	687,634	$ 3,438,170
Other Societies	$ 49,861	
Official Guardian Reports	2,899	
Research Design Project	3,491	
Mohawk Day Care Centre	7,060	
Membership Fees	1,560	
Payments from parents, etcetera	8,076	
Department of National Health and Welfare	84,811	
Local Initiatives Project Grant	20,521	
Investment Interest	14,895	193,174
TOTAL REVENUE		$ 3,631,344

Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	$ 1,692,194	
Building Occupancy	115,684	
Office Expense	62,865	
Promotion and Publicity	12,919	
Purchased Services (Non Medical)	14,122	
Transportation	49,213	
Boarding Rate Payments	1,201,183	
Health and Allied Services	37,681	
Child and Client Personal Needs	147,862	
Emergency Assistance	10,581	
Local Initiatives Programme	31,060	
Miscellaneous	10,959	
Capital Costs	5,300	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$ 3,391,623
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES		239,721

Auditors: H. R. Doane & Company
An audited statement of the Society's financial operation for the year 1976 is available for study at the Society's office, upon request.

Foster Care and Adoption Services to Children

In addition to regular foster homes we were fortunate to have several specialized types of foster care resources: 5 emergency homes, 4 group homes for older children who have difficulty accepting individual foster care and 7 assessment homes. The latter are part of our Special Services Unit. This is a unique new program where Child Care workers work closely with foster parents in diagnosing the long term needs of children over 6 who come into our care.

During the coming year, our Special Services Unit plans to continue to recruit and develop further specialized resources for disturbed and handicapped youngsters.

Figures for adoption placements of children showed an all time low, largely due to a shortage of available infants. Strenuous efforts continued to be made however to locate suitable adoptive parents for older children through newspaper columns, the television program Family Finder, the Provincial Adoption Exchange and the recently formed Federal Exchange. In recognition of the greater problems faced in the adoption placements of older children and those with physical and emotional handicaps, supportive group services for adopting parents continued to be offered.

When children cannot be helped in their own homes, it is sometimes necessary to provide for them in some form of substitute care setting either on a temporary or a long term basis.

Thanks to a continuous advertising program since August 1976, and the fact that we are retaining more of our foster homes annually, we have held our own as far as the total number of available foster homes is concerned. However, most of these homes tend to be for children under five, while the pressing need is for homes for teenagers. Ideally, we would like to have at least six homes to choose from for every child coming into care; in reality, at year end we had only 12 spaces available to meet the increasing need for homes for children 13 and over.

Crafts and Play Programs Benefit Children

While some of our craft/play programs - such as the weekly group for single mothers from a local maternity home - are designed strictly to provide stimulating recreation; others have more diverse goals.

Often parents who are facing a multitude of personal problems tend to limit their contact with their children to situations where the child is being corrected, criticized or told "to do" or "not to do". Our Family Crafts program literally helps parents learn how the sharing of play with their children can improve family relationships and mutual understanding.

Our Mothers' Craft Group provides a group situation where mothers can have a social outlet outside their own home, be exposed to crafts which provide a satisfying form of self expression, and share discussions about topics of mutual concern. The women who are encouraged by their social workers to join this group are those who have been leading extremely isolated lives or who have difficulty in forming relationships. Often the group serves as a stepping stone to getting these women involved in other community activities.

The most significant goal of our Craft Group for Girls in their early teens, is to improve their feelings of self-worth. Thinking she will fail whatever she attempts, the girl who lacks self-confidence often gives up on herself and quits trying. Therefore, participants are encouraged to plan their own activities but are skillfully directed initially to undertake those crafts at which they can achieve maximum satisfaction. Planning, working on a task, and completing it not only produces a feeling of pride and accomplishment, but also helps develop a sense of responsibility.

The Creative Play for Preschoolers program is planned to help mothers enrich the emotional and intellectual growth of their children. Activities are designed for every stage of development between infancy and five years. They are structured to take place at home, outdoors, at the supermarkets, or on the bus with a minimum of preparation and cost on the part of the mother. In addition to promoting the learning development of the child, the program also encourages the mother to become more involved with her child.

Out-of-doors Summer Programs were planned to supplement the regular craft programs for youngsters and mothers. Senior students from local high schools-some of whom were earning school credits-played a significant role in the planning and implementation of the activities.

Prevention is a Large Part of the Cure

1976 saw the development of a multi-directional Family Life Education program which has done much to promote our goal of preventing situations which eventually may lead to the neglect and/or mistreatment of children.

Using the Adlerian method of child management outlined by Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs in his book "Children, the Challenge", Parent Study Groups were established throughout the region. A leadership training course to prepare these parents to lead further groups followed. In September, a Parents' Conference was held with workshops on marriage enrichment, family counselling and child behaviour. The success of the conference led to the formation of additional parent study groups in the Hamilton area and plans are underway to expand the program in the future.

Use of Volunteers Enriches Agency Programs

Increasing applications from potential volunteers demonstrate the effects of certain social trends. For example: shorter work weeks, earlier retirement, an increase in unemployment and the fact that many women who want to head into the work force choose voluntarism as a stepping stone, are often motivating factors. Those who do apply represent a broad cross-section of our community: teenagers, men, women and senior citizens. The one common denominator is their desire to make a contribution to the families and children with whom we work. Sometimes this is accomplished by volunteers acting individually as "special friends" to our clients or their children, babysitting so mothers can attend therapeutic group sessions, or operating our clothing room. More often the volunteer serves as a member of a team meeting specific agency needs. For instance, the Administrative Volunteer Team has been one of our most active groups. This year because of increased demand for their services, the team was increased to 6 volunteers who served in practical ways with several departments in the agency on a once a week basis.

In 1976, two new groups of volunteers were recruited to carry out specific tasks:
1. Fourteen volunteers were trained to teach reading skills to children with reading problems.
2. Twelve volunteers were involved in an intensive training course designed to prepare them to research the needs of their respective communities and carry out community development programs to meet these needs. Prior to 1976 budget cuts, these preventive services were carried out by social workers. Already the volunteers have been involved in creating recreational facilities for children and attempting to prevent the closure of a much needed social service facility in the north end of Hamilton.

Changing Focus on Teens

The creation of an Adolescent Unit a few years ago to deal exclusively with parent-teenager conflict situations, has led to the development of a specialized team of social workers committed to helping families work through this difficult adolescent developmental stage.

In the past, the community and parents have often viewed the Children's Aid as an agency which removes children from difficult situations. However, we have increasingly come to believe that admission to some form of substitute care is not always the treatment of choice, even though it may be the solution requested by either the parent or the youngster. In 1976, over two-thirds of the adolescents were assisted while remaining in their own homes.

Careful screening of requests for removal of adolescents, is based primarily on the damage separation can do to the bonding between parents and their teenagers. It has also been influenced by the shortage of suitable foster and group home resources and the high costs of purchasing specialized care from private group homes. Involving the total family through individual and group counselling is seen as the more positive alternative; and by saying to a family "we can help you work this out", we raise the family's expectations of itself and decrease their feelings of failure.

Child Abuse

In our Canadian society where the rights of parents still tend to take precedence over the rights of children, and physical punishment of children is tolerated, where people tend to "look the other way" to avoid personal involvement, child abuse and child neglect remain serious problems.

Locally our agency has continued to play an active role on the Community Child Abuse Team which not only plans treatment for parents and children in identified cases of chronic neglect and abuse but also works toward the detection of early signs of potential abuse and preventive activity.

We are also represented by a sub committee of the Team which is trying to facilitate full use of our existing treatment facilities and to identify unmet needs in this area. One such need - for lay people to act as "Parent Aides" to abusive families - is already in the planning stage.

Internally, a Public Health nurse has been hired to work with our child abuse intake worker. Together they hope to expand our program of educating the public as to the problem of child abuse and the importance of reporting suspected cases. Hopefully 1977 will see the expansion of the concept of "modelling foster parents" which was begun on a trial basis in 1976. Specially selected foster parents will not only care for abused children, but will also be trained to teach parenting skills and act in a supportive way to the parents.

Provincially we have also been involved in a committee which is examining and revising child abuse/neglect reporting procedures in Ontario.

Spring '77 Volume 4 Issue 1
EDITOR - Jessica Davenport

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES - Gerry Arrell, Leith Bartosik, Helen Caldwell, Eileen Dobrucki, Greg Guthrie, Mary Hamilton.

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ANNUAL REPORT 1977

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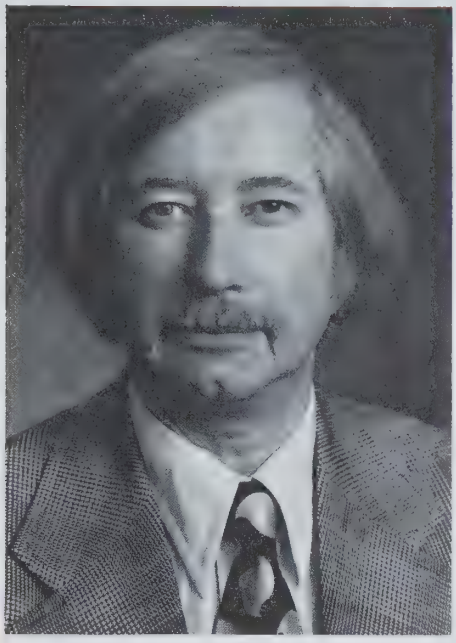


President's Message 1977

This annual meeting brings to a close my two year term as your President. It has been a distinct privilege for me to have joined forces with members of the board, committees, staff, foster parents and volunteers, in our combined efforts to serve the children and the families throughout this Region.

For one who had been associated with this Society for several years before being elected President, I must say that the years 1976 and 1977 have been unique in many ways. This was not due solely to the added responsibilities one assumes in becoming President, but more to the seeming shifts in attitude and approach taken by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in regard to the funding of Children's Aid Societies throughout the province.

In early 1976, all Societies were advised that the funds available for their respective programs could only be increased by 5.5% over 1975: a rate of increase less than the cost-of-living index figure for the same period.

How would we manage? What would have to be sacrificed? Was this a one year downward adjustment in income or was this the beginning of a shift in emphasis with respect to the Society's role?

Fortunately this Society, among others, experienced a marked decrease - still partially unexplained - in the number of children requiring foster care and we ended the year with a substantial surplus. However, the belt tightening stance of the Ministry was well entrenched by year-end and we were warned that 1977 would be a still more difficult year from a funding point of view.

The year 1977 did not follow the pattern of 1976, for there was a significant shift upwards in the number of children - particularly teenagers - requiring foster care and costs for your Society rose in a manner consistent with the cost-of-living. However, at the time this report went to press in early 1978, the Society still had not resolved it's financial differences with the Ministry regarding the 1977 budget. Furthermore, the implications of budgetary constraints have played havoc with staff morale. Throughout the year just ended, the loss of jobs remained a distinct possibility.

We ended 1977 with an over expenditure of $307,675 based on what the Ministry was prepared to allow us for the year. This figure is still being negotiated with the Ministry in the form of a supplementary estimate application on the part of your Society. It is of interest to note that we were funded by the Ministry in 1977 at a figure $138,000 below what we were called upon to spend in 1976. Furthermore, our expenditures for the year ending December 31, 1977 were within .2% of our projected estimates for the entire year.

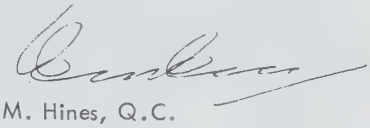
We recognize that we are living in difficult times and that spiralling inflation can spell doom for us all. However, it is our earnest belief that service to families and children who cannot always speak for themselves, must remain one of our community's highest priorities when it comes to portioning out available dollars.

Are preventative programs as carried out by Societies now a thing of the past? Does the Child Welfare Act in its present form truly reflect the wishes of the government of Ontario? If it does, then the funding necessary to carry out our mandate under law must be assured within appropriate limits. Failing this, the Act must be rewritten to incorporate those aspects of child protection and care which the elected officials at Queen's Park intend us to carry out and appropriate funding assured to fulfill the task assigned to us.

We have been encouraged throughout these difficult months by the dedicated efforts and constructive steps taken by board, staff, committees of the board, foster parents and volunteers, to assure that the best possible services were made available to those in need. We are particularly grateful to the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth for its understanding and tangible financial assistance in times of crisis.

As we move into 1978 and the years to follow, it is my sincere hope that services in the preventative field may be strengthened. It still remains a basic belief on the part of all those directly affiliated with this Society in its day to day work, that the child's natural family foundation should be strengthened and maintained.

In relinquishing my role as your President, I would like to express my warm appreciation to all who have played their part in making this Society what it is today. Together we have accomplished much and hopefully, we will continue to do so in the years ahead.



Howard M. Hines, Q.C.

Report of the Managing Director, Jack Finlay

Elsewhere in this printed report you will find spelled out "the Role, Purpose and Position in Law" of all Children's Aid Societies of this province. These words are taken directly from the Child Welfare Act of Ontario: the mandate under which this Society was granted its charter. The responsibility vested in us by the governing body at Queen's Park and yes, the role this community has the right to expect us to fulfill on behalf of children and families is to be found in the Act itself and the policies enacted by your board of directors.

FUNDS LIMITED

In his report, your President has noted the financial constraints imposed on the Society in 1976 and 1977. We as a staff fully appreciate that these are difficult times and monetary limits must be set. Still, in recognizing this, we are also aware that the very families and children we are endeavouring to serve are also caught up in this inflationary spiral. Their food, clothing, medical and dental costs have soared, but their income and housing standards are often lower. It is within this emotionally charged financial "straight-jacket" that we as a staff strive to carry out our responsibilities.

1977 A YEAR OF CRISIS

Throughout the whole of 1977 we never knew from one day to the next where we stood financially. Was there money to start a new preventative program let alone retain one already in operation? Would we have to lay off staff? Would we have to cut salaries? What of increased rates

of board to hard pressed foster parents - would this be possible? What should we do about increased demands for service? Would we have to add to case loads already too high or refer persons in need elsewhere if we could find an agency prepared to help them? Could we replace a resigning staff member or must their already heavy load be shared by others? What to do about staff morale with all the uncertainties? What to do about already over worked foster parents? How do we offset their desire or need to "call it quits"? How do we cope with an increased number of teenagers in care or demanding to be brought into care because of "parent-child conflicts" which for them and their parents were often times insurmountable? What about child abuse, already recognized as being on the increase in this area? How much longer could our one remaining specially trained child abuse worker continue without being "burned out" herself? What about the seven identified bonafide suicide prone youngsters - how would we be able to prevent the worst from happening? Are we or were we to be the next Society to be "burned" by the news media because a child in our care - or one who should be in our care - dies? How could our staff fulfill a court requirement that we visit a given child three or more times a week when the demands of the worker's current case load made this impossible despite the need to assure the safety of the child?

THE WAY IT IS

It isn't a pretty picture is it? Nor did we intend it to be, for we are only trying to tell it like it is. All too often annual reports are lukewarm, insipid, back-slapping, bouquet tossing documents which only try to reassure the public that we are a wonderful group of people who do great things. Personally, I feel our staff, foster parents, volunteers, committee and board members are deserving of the highest of praise. However, it only takes one incident out of the thousands we deal with every year to have our "dream castles" of group and individual achievement tumble to the ground. It's not the thousands of things we presumably do right, but the one thing that goes wrong upon which our credibility is often based.

SOME PROJECTS SHELVED

The year 1977 was not a "go ahead" year in many areas because of budgetary uncertainties. Community development projects which flourished in previous years had to be curtailed - in fact in some cases eliminated - except for one ongoing liaison with the Dundas Community Development Council. Many parent and child group activities had to be temporarily shelved because of our heavy case loads and the fact that staff were reduced primarily to covering the minimum requirements of the Child Welfare Act, in regard to visiting, medicals, dentals, reporting and investigating.

Preventative efforts in the truest sense have had to be greatly reduced. In the past it was that extra visit, that extra interview or phone call, that being there when needed that often meant the difference between a child having to come into foster care as contrasted with being able to

remain at home with his parents. Fortunately, we have been able to continue self-supporting "pay as you go" parent study groups designed for teachers, nurses, social workers and parents who wish to increase their child management skills.

Our foster and group home parents have continued to meet at regular intervals to learn how to cope with disturbed, acting-out teenagers and latency aged children. Here the sharing of experiences and the built in support system of good people holding much in common in their concern for children has been an added bonus. Our therapeutic arts and crafts program is still active and many children, teenagers, unmarried mothers and single mothers have found a common meeting ground for self help augmented by skilled agency staff input.

FOSTER HOME SHORTAGE

Statistically this report shows great increases in certain areas and losses in others. The most serious deficiency is in the area of persons offering themselves as foster or group home parents. Our staff have worked diligently in striving to increase our supply of available foster care resources but with very limited success in terms of numbers. Why do citizens not wish to open their homes to children as in the past? Have they other interests? Is the task too demanding? Do we not provide enough social work or child care worker input or support? Some of the answers we feel are known to us. We are certain of one thing though, and it is simply this: you cannot expect social work staff to carry upwards of 25, 30 or more cases at any one time and be effective.

We are much more selective with respect to children brought into substitute care and for several reasons. Firstly, we believe that if at all possible children should be raised by their own parents in their own homes. Secondly, those who do come into foster care are admitted largely because they are deeply distraught - sometimes scarred emotionally and physically - and separation of parent and child is deemed the only appropriate course to pursue. Finally, our resources such as foster, group, treatment and assessment settings are in such short supply that only those in greatest need can be accommodated.

SOME SOLUTIONS

What then is the answer? These are several avenues which might be worthy of exploration:

1. Our legal role needs to be consistent with what the province is prepared to fund.
2. Case loads per worker must be reduced (in some cases to as low as 10 to 15 families or children at one time) if we are to provide adequate input.
3. While money isn't everything, foster parents must be compensated in such a way that they do not suffer financially through carrying out responsibilities which the vast majority of citizens are unwilling to assume.
4. There must be closed therapeutic helping facilities for acting-out, emotionally disturbed youngsters who often times are suicide prone. To date the government is not facing up to this need. To close Training Schools as a progressive step and to fail to provide suitable alternatives in either quality or quantity, certainly isn't the answer.

CASE PRESSURES GREATER

While overall figures of children actually in the care of Ontario's Children's Aid Societies is down compared with 10 years ago, the intensity, the severity, the seriousness of the cases with which we are left, far outweigh the reduced numbers in terms of the demands made on presently reduced resources.

1977 has been a year to remember. It - perhaps more than any other year in recent memory - has called upon each of us to take stock of where we are and where we are going.

The path we follow in 1978 and the years to follow is certainly far from clear at the moment. Success - if we are to attain it - rests with increased commitment on the part of each of us, whether we be provincial or local government representatives, members of board or committees, foster parents, volunteers or staff members. Together we can do much to establish our priorities, our goals and the realization of our hopes and dreams. If we do not pick up this challenge we are not only failing ourselves but most important of all, we fail our community's children.

J. Finlay photo courtesy The Spectator

Show You Care

At only $2.00 per person, membership in the Society is still one of the best bargains around. Membership provides not only a vote at the Annual Meeting, but also a subscription to the OACAS Journal.

This year, more than ever before, we encourage you to show your support of the Society in a tangible way. Show you care! Become a member!

Your C.A.S. Today and Yesterday

At a well attended meeting on January 22, 1894, a Children's Aid Society was organized in Hamilton. This was largely the result of the efforts of the Honourable John M. Gibson, a Hamiltonian who, with John Joseph Kelso, had been responsible for the passage of the Children's Protection Act in 1892.

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From this humble beginning the society grew to an organization with a budget in the millions, employing a staff of 106.

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In 1966, amalgamation with the Children's Aid Society of Wentworth County took place; and the new organization was known as the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton - Wentworth.

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2. Every Children's Aid Society shall be operated for the purposes of:

a. investigating allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protection;
b. protecting children where necessary;
c. providing guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
d. providing care for children assigned or committed to its care under this or any other Act;
e. supervising children assigned to its supervision under this or any other Act;
f. placing children for adoption;
g. assisting the parents of children born out-of-wedlock or likely to be born out of wedlock and their children born out of wedlock;
h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.

3. Every Society shall provide at least the standard of services prescribed by the regulations.

Board of Directors and Officers 1977-1978

HONORARY SOLICITORS

Mr. J.E. Milne, Q.C. — Mr. J.F. Reesor, Q.C.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Mr. H.M. Hines, Q.C.
Past President	Mr. S.M. Fletcher
Vice Presidents	Mr. J.R. Sams
	Mr. J. Patterson
Treasurer	Mr. S. Davidson
Managing Director	Mr. J.G. Finlay

DIRECTORATE

Mrs. J.E. Adamson
Dr. J.C. Allison
Miss J. Campbell
Dr. A.J. Denholm
Mr. G. Etherington
Mrs. R.W. Ford
Mr. W.J. Found
Mr. G. Harris
Mr. D. Heer
* Mr. J.W. Hyslop
Mrs. K. Jones
Mr. J.O. Kern
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* Mr. J. MacDonald
Mrs. G.C. McAuley
Mr. W.J. McCallion
Mr. M.L. McKnight
Miss P. Nevidon
Mr. J.M. Reesor
Mr. J. Rowley
* Mr. J. Southall
Mr. R. Spoar
* Dr. J. Stowe
Mr. L. Thomas
Mr. N.F. Williams

* Regional Councillor

Some Facts and Figures

	1973	1977
* Accumulative January - December		
* Admitted to care through Family Services Department	329	337
* Admitted to care through Unmarried Parents Unit	71	57
* Children discharged from care	422	361
* New and re-opened Family Services cases	333	1,417
* Closed Family Services cases	311	1,130
Family Services caseload	365	714
* New and re-opened Unmarried Parents cases	116	334
* Closed Unmarried Parents cases	140	259
Unmarried Parents caseload	32	40
* Applications to adopt	148	81
* Children placed on adoption	93	67
Total children in care	478	430
* Applications to board	100	57
* Total paid board days care	108,508	108,469
* Total paid institution days	20,404	18,151

SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1977

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	$ 2,473,538	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	618,384	$ 3,091,922
Other Societies	$ 57,692	
Official Guardian Reports	2,338	
Research Design Project	30,080	
Mohawk Day Care Centre	3,255	
Membership Fees	1,689	
Payments from parents, etcetera	22,270	
Department of National Health and Welfare	89,891	
Investment Interest	14,468	221,683
TOTAL REVENUE		$ 3,313,605

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Benefits	$ 1,810,405	
Building Occupancy	115,970	
Office Expense	73,112	
Training, Education & Conferences	3,917	
Promotion and Publicity	11,863	
Purchased Services (Non Medical)	20,191	
Transportation	55,020	
Boarding Rate Payments	1,293,717	
Health and Allied Services	37,878	
Child and Client Personal Needs	168,110	
Emergency Assistance	10,207	
Miscellaneous	20,890	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$ 3,621,280
EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF REVENUE		307,675

Auditors: H.R. Doane & Company
An audited statement of the Society's financial operation for the year 1977 is available for study at the Society's office, upon request.

The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton — Wentworth
143 Wentworth Street, South,
Hamilton, Ontario. L8N 2Z1

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Hamilton, Ont.

newsletter
OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

ANNUAL REPORT 1978

Joseph Sams, President

As your President it is my privilege to highlight some of the activities of 1978 as I review our programs, our financial report and the accumulation of statistical data.

These are really only "trend indicators" in the delivery of our service to the Region and are meaningless if we fail to recognize the part which is played by the "people" of this society.

In the coming year we will be observing the International Year of The Child throughout the free world and a major focus of our agency, in concert with the Catholic and Halton Children's Aid Societies, will be the recruitment of two hundred new foster homes. The social and financial pressures on modern foster parents are reflected in the need to constantly recruit new homes to be ready for the challenge of children. In my associations with our own foster and group home parents, I find them to be very special people, ready to give their love, understanding and care in a way which only a lonely child can understand.

The commitment of our volunteers often goes unnoticed in the press of day-to-day activities; however we are most grateful for their assistance and their willingness to jump in on short notice. Their help, especially in times of financial restraint, plays a meaningful role in our service.

I am proud of the way our Management, Supervisors and Case Workers respond when challenged by some of the critical decisions thrust on them and especially when they come in the form of media criticism. The membership of this Society is fortunate indeed to have the calibre of staff whose competence is so highly rated by their peers across Ontario.

The one segment of our service which has been brought forward dramatically this past year is the increased recording of child abuse cases and the public concern which has developed around this spectre of modern society. We have always had cases of child abuse, but the increase can be attributed to a number of changes occurring in our community: a different set of moral standards in family life; new social and economic pressures and to some extent a tightening of reporting techniques in suspected cases. Our challenge as a social agency is to disseminate information, to encourage stricter law enforcement and to promote educational programs in the hope of reducing the incidence of abuse.

At the conclusion of my year in office, I want to express a special word of thanks to our Board of Directors: the four who represent Regional Council and who are so involved with every aspect of our community life but yet have a consistently high record of attendance at committee and Board meetings, and the other twenty-six elected members who represent a variety of interests and skills which they bring so freely to our agency.

This outstanding year was marred in mid-January by the sudden passing of Stewart Davidson, our Treasurer. While I could not adequately express my appreciation for his service to us, let me say merely that he will be greatly missed by the Society and also in the many other parts of the community where he gave so freely of his skills and his sincerity.

May I close with an expression of thanks to the Membership for your confidence and support throughout 1978 and my hopes that our joint concern for those families and children who need us in the months ahead will be the spark which continues to give meaning to our work.

Special Events in 1978

- Staff and Board joined with director, Jack Finlay, in celebrating his 25th anniversary with the agency.
- Dr. Florence Smith retired as C.A.S. clinic doctor after 34 years of service.

Report of the Managing Director, Jack Finlay

The year 1978 will perhaps best be known as the year of standards, guidelines, policy formulation and all inclusive Ministry directives. Never before have the Societies of this province been involved in such an exercise on the part of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to put our respective houses in order thereby making certain that all bases were covered.

MINISTRY GUIDELINES

There was, for example, the green paper on "Standards and Guidelines for Children's Services; the Recommendations of the Ministry Task Force on Child Abuse; Consultation Paper on "Information Systems Development for Children's Services in Ontario"; Children's Services Division Questionnaire on Residential Services for Children; A Green Paper on Program Priorities for 1978; A Further Green Paper on the Establishing of Local Children's Services Committees; the Guidelines re After Hour, Weekend, and Holiday Services Coverage required of Societies, and finally, the draft with respect to the new Child Welfare Act of 1978, which has recently been passed by the Provincial Legislature and now awaits only Royal Proclamation before becoming the law of this province.

The fact that our provincial Ministry took the initiative in preparing these documents and involved the Children's Aid Societies of the province, is highly commendable.

CHILD ABUSE

We updated our own agency policy statements or Guides to Practice as they are called, thus strengthening our role in the service delivery process to over 2500 families representing some 5000 children throughout the Hamilton-Wentworth Region. Particular emphasis was placed on the child abuse component through a clarification of the role and function of every member of our staff called upon to deal with cases of child abuse. When suspected abuse is reported, we must act promptly and professionally and with a full knowledge of all the implications, be they medical or legal. Without question, reports of alleged child abuse are on the increase. This fact

will be accentuated still further, we believe, when the new Act is put into operation, for it carries a heavy penalty for those failing in their professional role to report such incidents. In 1978 our referrals of alleged abuse were almost double the previous year, 136 compared with 73 in 1977. It is also conservatively estimated that at least 40% of all the families with whom we are working - some 1000 of the 2500 - have an ingredient of "high risk" for children, amidst the mix of their individual and collective problems as a family. The knowledge of this "high risk" possibility brings added pressure to bear on our staff, already carrying caseloads far in excess of desirable levels of effective input.

PREVENTATIVE EFFORTS

In the field of prevention, we take pride in the fact that over 1000 citizens have participated in the Family Life Parenting courses, Workshops, and Conferences sponsored by your Society in the past three years. This has resulted in a significantly increased number of people knowing more about the needs of children, and how we as adults best play our respective roles. Added to this, is the day-to-day effort of our staff in trying to make their own home a safer, more secure place for the children of this community. Of the 5000 children plus, whose lives were touched by this agency during 1978, only 415 required placement in substitute care resources such as our foster and group homes, augmented by placements in appropriate treatment settings. As the statistical segment of this report reveals, we admitted 415 children to care; however, we returned 413, the majority to their own homes following a period in foster care and 44 to an adoption setting when this proved to be the most appropriate long term plan.

FOSTER CARE RESOURCES

Our shrinking foster care facilities are a matter of vital concern to your board of directors and staff. The untiring efforts of those who have fostered over the years are deeply appreciated. Our only problem rests in the fact that their dedicated efforts are not being supported by a sufficiently large number of new families entering the foster parenting stream. When a child comes into foster care, we are as much as saying to that child, "We, the C.A.S., are in a better position to meet your needs than are your own parents", and therein lies the challenge. With teenagers representing some 60% of the total children requiring "In Care" assistance, one can readily appreciate that here is the area of greatest concern for our staff. While the trend the last few years has been in the direction of more older children needing the time and skill of our foster parents and staff, there is a small but nevertheless significant indication that the pre-teens are again looking to us in greater numbers. This in spite of the overall decrease in the child population as witnessed

in school enrolment figures.

Throughout this report you will find reference to other avenues of service, and we would commend these to your attention. Children whether they present their many and varied needs while still in their own homes or in foster care, often require innovative skills, techniques and casework methods. For every child, we must assess the problem, formulate a plan, strike a goal and pursue it with all the expertise that the experience and training of staff and foster parents alike can muster. Success for us is when we see children who are happy, free from emotional and physical damage, and family members pulling together as a unit of truly caring people.

OUR GOALS

If our goals are too high, it is only because we care and care deeply what happens to children. Unfortunately, lofty goals and expectations laced with fine sounding policies, procedures, directives and legal phraseology, cannot in themselves, provide the level of service so badly needed by this community. It takes staff, foster parents, board and committee members, as well as a multitude of volunteers, pulling together. In addition, adequate funding is basic. When board rates paid foster parents are too low to attract and hold good people because the cost of caring for our community's children is beyond their means; when staff find it difficult to fulfill their responsibilities because they too are being inadequately compensated; then we must ask ourselves as citizens, how much priority we place on meaningful service to children. Is a new strip of highway, a new arena, a new hydro generator, a new jail or courthouse, more important than children? These are the questions we must ask ourselves when money becomes tight and constraints threaten to strangle and thwart our concern for youngsters.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

Once again we repeat suggested solutions we offered last year, for they still apply and some even more urgently than ever.

1. Our legal role needs to be consistent with what the province is prepared to fund.
2. Case loads per worker must be reduced (in some cases to as low as 10 to 15 families or children at one time) if we are to provide adequate input.
3. While money isn't everything, foster parents must be compensated in such a way that they do not suffer financially through carrying responsibilities which the vast majority of citizens are unwilling to assume.
4. There must be closed therapeutic helping facilities for acting-out emotionally disturbed youngsters who oftentimes are suicide prone. To date the government is not facing up to this need. To close Training Schools as a progressive step and to fail to provide suitable alternatives in either quality or quantity, certainly isn't the answer.

THE ROAD AHEAD

As we move into 1979, the "International Year of the Child", we take stock of our past failures and successful efforts, for we are ever mindful of the responsibility that is ours to protect the children of this community. With your help as concerned citizens, we can do much. Without your blessing represented by your deeds, your dollars, and your encouragement, we can do little to reflect your hopes and ours, for our community's children.

Services to Families

Under the Child Welfare Act, we are required to provide counselling and other services to families when children under the age of 16 are being affected by problems within the family. Increasingly these families are single parent families and the problems cover the spectrum from difficulty in handling child behaviour to severe cases of child abuse. Poverty, marital stress, poor housing, emotional illness, parental immaturity and alcoholism are often complicating factors; as is the fact that our society has been changing so rapidly during the past six or seven years. Families often have few roots in their communities and family ties have continued to weaken, meaning that social agencies must now take the place of an extended family. Even the well-to-do are not immune, particularly in the area of parent-adolescent conflicts.

Whatever the problem, about half our clients are either teenagers or adults who - recognizing the severity of their family problems - reach out to the agency for help. The balance of clients are those who have been reported by an individual, social agency, school official or medical person as not caring properly for their children. Resistance to help and to behaviour change is high in the latter group and demands all the therapeutic skill our social workers and

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	Mr. J.M. Reesor
Treasurer	Mr. S. Davidson **
Managing Director	Mr. J.G. Finlay

DIRECTORATE

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Dr. J.C. Allison
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*Mr. J. Southall
Mr. R. Spoar
*Dr. J. Stowe
Mr. L. Thomas
Mr. N.F. Williams

*Regional Councillor
**Deceased

Some Facts and Figures

* Year End Total	1977	1978
Admitted to care through Family Services Department	337	370
Admitted to care through Unmarried Parents Unit	57	45
Children discharged from care	361	413
New and re-opened Family Services Cases	1,418	2,053
Closed Family Services Cases	1,130	1,917
*Family Services Caseload	714	850
New and re-opened Unmarried Parents Cases	97	151
Closed Unmarried Parents Cases	87	170
*Unmarried Parents Caseload	40	21
Applications to Adopt	81	70
Children Placed on Adoption	67	44
*Total Children in Care	430	432
Applications to Board	57	52
Total Paid Board Days Care	103,549	102,455
Total Paid Institution Days	18,183	22,860

Summary of Revenue and Expenditures
As Of December 31, 1978

Revenue

Province of Ontario	$ 2,901,758	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	723,842	
		$ 3,625,600
Other Societies	56,033	
Official Guardian Reports	13,219	
Research Design Project	9,635	
Membership Fees	1,756	
Payments from parents, etcetera	21,514	
Department of National Health and Welfare	100,977	
Investment Interest	8,836	
		211,970
		$ 3,837,570

Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	$ 1,826,811	
Building Occupancy	113,465	
Office Expense	79,752	
Training, Education and Conferences	3,975	
Promotion and Publicity	9,623	
Purchased Services (Non Medical)	43,208	
Transportation	58,729	
Boarding Rate Payments	1,549,030	
Health and Allied Services	42,702	
Child and Client Personal Needs	194,642	
Emergency Assistance	7,942	
Miscellaneous	7,909	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$ 3,937,788
EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF REVENUE		100,218

Auditors: H.R. Doane & Company
An audited statement of the Society's financial operation for the year 1978 is available for study at the Society's office, upon request.

child care staff can muster.

Whatever the problem, our goal is to strengthen the family as a unit and to resist separating families. Despite this, 415 children could not be helped in their own homes last year and it became necessary to apply for temporary C.A.S. guardianship. While these youngsters were in foster care, Family Service staff continued to work toward returning the child home.

A Christmas party brought together our Child Abuse staff and the Parent Aides who are working as part-time para professionals with abusive and high risk families.

The Parent Aide program, whereby supportive assistance and parenting help has been given to over 30 families, was expanded in '78 as five new applicants entered the extensive training program.

Child abuse continued to cover the spectrum from deprivation and physical abuse, to emotional and verbal abuse. Discovery of cases of sexual abuse continued to escalate, and new Ministry provisions made it mandatory for us to report all suspected cases to the Crown Attorney for possible criminal prosecution.

We were fortunate - thanks to a provincial grant to our Society - to obtain the services of a Public Health nurse and a full time clerical person: staff additions which will do much to strengthen our child abuse program.

Teen Problems Increase

Our Adolescent Unit continued to face an escalating crisis situation in parent-adolescent conflicts during 1978. Running behaviour and threatened suicide remained serious causes of concern to social workers, and caseload pressures became such that stringent guidelines as to the types of cases that could be accepted had to be instituted.

Every effort is expended to keep adolescents with their own families rather than admitting them to foster care, the exception being cases where the court orders us to bring a child into care. Despite these attempts, the desperately few foster homes for teens were taxed to the limit and placement in costly private group homes remained a matter of necessity rather than choice in many cases.

As an alternative to taking children into care and to relieve stress in parent-child conflicts which have reached the boiling point, the society submitted plans to the Ministry for a five day a week (4 p.m. to 9 p.m.) program where youngsters could be taught new life skills and parents would have to agree to participate in a parent group in order to have their children become eligible for the program. High hopes as to the value of this new alternative to foster care are held by staff and it is hoped that funding may become available in 1979.

Mothers Keep Babies

There was no lessening in 1978 of the trend toward unmarried mothers keeping their babies, and this remained a matter of concern. Often these mothers tend to be teenagers living alone on Family Benefits with few social supports. Because of their immaturity, the decision to keep their babies is often made for highly unrealistic reasons. Then, as the baby grows up and the demands on the mother increase, the situation often has high potential for the neglect or abuse of the child.

Together with the Catholic Society we have remained in a pre natal program for unmarried mothers in the hope that they will come to us for help if and when they begin to have post natal problems. Counselling was provided to those who came to us with their decision about their baby unmade and to those who - having opted to keep their baby - recognized their need for ongoing assistance.

Services to Children

While our Family Services department has the goal of reinforcing the natural family, the Children's Services department has a vastly different focus. The children cared for through this department are Crown Wards whom the Court feels cannot be returned home and for whom the society must remain responsible until age 18 (or until they are placed for adoption).

Last year, we had over 220 Crown Wards in our long term care, with the casework focus being on the child as a growing, developing person moving toward independence. Because the children becoming Crown Wards tend to have more severe problems, a tremendous amount of staff encouragement and support is required for what may often be limited growth. Gains are, however, being made in the area of education completion - whether through academic or trade courses. Several wards under the extended care of the society, are attending Mohawk College.

Resources in Low Supply

One of the most serious concerns in providing either temporary or long term care to children is the severe shortage of foster home resources. Fewer couples apply each year to foster and homes are needed for all age groups, particularly school aged boys and teens. We have managed to maintain 11 specialized homes which serve either an assessment or a treatment function, 10 emergency homes and 4 infant homes where the foster parents also help teach parenting skills to high risk parents.

Group homes are often the answer for youngsters who cannot fit into regular foster homes, and we now have 9 homes serving this function. It is hoped that increases in board rates will be approved in 1979 by the Ministry and that this - in turn - will encourage more people to consider being foster parents. Plans are also in the offing for a Joint Foster Home Appeal on behalf of ourselves, the Catholic Society and the Halton Children's Aid during International Year of the Child.

Adoption Picture

While interest in newborn infants remained high despite lengthy waiting periods, 1978 saw a continuance of the downward trend in the adoption placements of newborn infants. Figures began to drop several years ago mainly due to the fact that the majority of unmarried mothers - who tend now to be younger teenagers - were keeping their babies rather than placing them for adoption. Adoption continued to mean largely the placement of toddlers and older children who became adoptable as a result of breakdowns in their natural families. While the numbers of placements were low, the work load for social workers remained high in terms of intensity because of the time input needed to help older children move gradually into adoption and to provide much-appreciated ongoing supportive contact with adoptive families in the post adoptive period.

In addition to the use of the "Today's Child" newspaper column, the Sunday afternoon C.T.V. show "Family Finder" and the Provincial Adoption Exchange as aids to finding adoptive families, we are also using the new Federal Adoption Desk in seeking children - mainly from the western provinces - for waiting families.

Foster Mothers: Charlotte Blaney, Susan Button and Joan McLean.

F.P.A. Expands It's Role

Gord McLean, new president of our Foster Parent Association, and his Executive have been working in close co-operation with the staff and Board in promoting higher standards of foster care and in recruiting and training new foster parents. New areas of involvement included the preliminary work on a set of guidelines regarding the disciplining of foster children, and on the means to recognize foster parent service.

The lighter side of the association was not ignored as social activities such as a picnic, Christmas party and a pot luck supper brought foster parents closer together.

Of great value to the association was the production of an extensive new Foster Parent Handbook by a group of students working under an Experience '78 grant. Much of the material included was information which foster parents indicated was of value to them.

Teaching Parenting Skills In the Community

Preventing problems by teaching parenting skills which foster mutual respect, co-operation, responsibility and self reliance in children is the goal of our Family Life Education Program. Through this program we have conducted 7 Parent Study Groups using the Systematic Training For Effective Parenting (S.T.E.P.) techniques of child management; a leadership training program for potential leaders of new parent groups; two all-day conferences on parenting and a public presentation by Gary McKay, co-author of the S.T.E.P. program. The program has been well received by the community and literally hundreds of parents have learned more satisfactory ways of responding to their children.

Also effective in helping parents learn new skills is the work being done by the child care workers who staff our Special Services Unit. Cases are referred to this unit by other departments in the agency and by outside sources - such as family doctors and other agencies - when behaviour management is the main presenting problem. Caseloads are purposely kept low and assistance to parents is on an intensive basis. The general public has been particularly responsive to this service and waiting lists have resulted.

Playing Means Learning For Children and Parents

Our craft groups for single mothers, adolescents and unmarried mothers from Grace Haven provide excellent social situations where clients can have a positive experience with the agency. They also supply opportunities for confidence building successes which help raise the client's sense of self-esteem.

We also provided "learning through play" experiences to children in our Nu-Cool Summer Play School and our Home Play Program. Both programs are designed to enrich the child's sensory experiences and to lay a sounder foundation for later social, emotional, language and motor development. The Home Play Program also includes the added dimension of parental involvement in the child's play process: an involvement which often strengthens the bonds between parent and child.

Active Role of Volunteers

Volunteer, Molly Kennedy, assists social worker, Barb Watkins

The agency owes a debt of gratitude to our active volunteers who supplement the work of social workers through their hundreds of hours of voluntary service. Volunteers come from different walks of life and age groups and they include men as well as women in their ranks. Their one common denominator is a desire to be of service to our Society.

The following are some of the ways volunteers have assisted us in the past year: Administrative volunteers and unit case aides have carried out clerical projects; social work case aides have acted as understanding friends to high risk families; therapeutic counsellors have worked closely under the supervision of social workers in providing emotional support and guidance to youngsters with special needs; a couple who have been active foster parents for disturbed children have shared their expertise by conducting a foster parent support group; remedial reading volunteers have helped children who were experiencing difficulties in school; baby sitters have made possible the continuance of agency-run activity groups for mothers with whom we are involved; one volunteer runs our used clothing room for clients; a university research assistant conducted empathy and assertiveness training courses for staff and for parent aides working with abusive parents; and teenaged volunteers helped run our Summer Enrichment NuCool School Program.

One interesting aspect of our volunteer program is that some of the above roles were filled by people who themselves had at some point been helped by Children's Aid .

While volunteers played an active part in making many special programs possible, two types of volunteers continue to be difficult to find: male volunteers to act as therapeutic counsellors to young boys, and people willing to drive youngsters to appointments or on visits to their families on an occasional or a regular basis. The need for these types of volunteers remains urgent and people wishing to offer their services in these capacities are urged to contact our Co-Ordinator of Volunteer Services.

The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton — Wentworth
143 Wentworth Street, South,
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annual report

OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

ORB/MUR

1979: YEAR OF THE CHILD

Joseph Sams, President

It became evident to our Board late in 1978 that financial restraints would severely impair the quality of service to the families of the Region and make it equally difficult to provide income levels to our foster and group home parents consistent with current costs. We also felt obligated to maintain a competitive level of staff salaries in order to recruit, develop and retain the quality of professional workers needed. Efforts were made throughout the year by your Board, together with the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, to inform the Ministry of our position and on your behalf, I attended a number of meetings with Association and Ministry officials with a view to increased Provincial funding.

These efforts culminated on December 10th last at a Child Welfare Budget Review Hearing when agreement was finally reached on our reduced budget requirements.

The frustrations in trying to plan a program of service when financial commitments are unknown almost until year's end are obvious and I am pleased to report that for 1980 the level of financial support and a new manner of budget approval has been established by the Ministry of Community and Social Services which will afford us the opportunity to plan ahead within certain guidelines. This has been a long time in coming and I feel that pressures from our Association and individually from our local societies had a large part in effecting this change.

I relinquish the office of President to my successor with a great sense of pride in having been associated with the membership, staff, board members, foster and group home parents and volunteers, all of whom have a commitment to the welfare of families and children as career or lay persons. This Society is financially strong, but more important is its strength of personal support throughout the Hamilton-Wentworth Region; firstly in the high calibre of Regional Councillors who sit on the Board and secondly in the broadly based membership which annually sends to the Directorate people of various talents who form the general policies of our agency.

To all of you, my very sincere thanks for your contribution during 1979. Your dedication is a very necessary ingredient in the success of this vital segment of our social framework.

Foster Parents Enjoy Special Event

Over 1500 collective years of service to children were publicly recognized last November at a dinner dance honouring foster parents.

The introduction of a Foster Parent Recognition Night as an annual event was particularly appropriate during Year of the Child because foster parents are the keystone of our service to children. "Foster Parents Are Special" was the theme of the evening: a sentiment sincerely felt by our agency.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards to foster parents for varying lengths of service, climaxed by the giving of $100 Canada Savings Bonds and gold pins to nine sets of foster parents with over 25 years of service. In true foster parent style, one 25 year veteran said, "If I could I'd still be at it 25 years from now.". That kind of dedication is hard to forget.

Report of the Managing Director, Jack Finlay

The year 1979 will best be remembered by many, as the International Year of the Child, a year in which our focus and concern world-wide, was directed towards the children in our midst. For your local Children's Aid Society, it was no exception. Yet if we are to be perfectly honest, every year is the year of the child for Ontario's Children's Aid Societies.

FOSTER CARE RESOURCES

We, like other services throughout this community, placed special emphasis on certain aspects of child life throughout 1979. To be more specific, we joined forces with our colleagues in the Children's Aid Society of Halton and the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth, in carrying out a year-long media advertising campaign. This effort was directed towards the recruitment of more badly needed foster homes. Would that we could state with pride, that our goal of some 200 new foster homes had been attained. While our combined efforts realized a substantial increase in the number of citizens showing interest in becoming foster parents, the net result was that this Society had to close more homes than it opened. As a consequence of this, approximately the same number of homes were available to us for placement of children at the end of 1979, as there were at the beginning. Yet we must not be discouraged.

The children of this community are putting their trust in us to find for them the best possible substitute home when their own has failed them. We shall continue our quest for more resources for children in 1980 and the years to follow.

PREVENTION

Still in keeping with the "International Year of the Child" theme, your Society continued its "parenting skills" courses. In addition, we offered 8 evening sessions and 6 all day workshops, on such topics as the following:

- The Emotionally Disturbed Child
- Risking Relationships
- Encouraging the Severely Discouraged Child
- The Aggressive Child

- Assertiveness Training
- Leadership Training for Parent Study Group Leaders
- Living with Teens and Surviving
- The Abused Child
- The Mentally Retarded Child
- The Child With Learning Disabilities
- Contemporary Approaches to Child Raising
- The Hyperactive Child
- How to Become more Interpersonally and Organizationally Effective
- Conference on Child Advocacy
- The Exceptionally Bright Child

All these sessions were well attended. Unfortunately, the conference on Child Advocacy had to be cancelled at the last moment, due to circumstances beyond our control.

"Prevention" is still the prime goal we have before us as we enter this new decade. Throughout this report you will realize what efforts we have been making in this respect. Whether it takes the form of Parent Aides; Modelling Foster Parents; Therapeutic Counsellors; Remedial Reading Classes; Arts and Crafts; Nu Cool School or summer outings such as hiking, camping, picnicking engaged in by parents and children alike, our concern centers upon the preservation and the strengthening of family life.

CHILD POPULATION ON THE DECREASE

With the declining birth rate, we too are experiencing a modest but noticeable decrease in the number of children requiring residential or the "in care" services of your Society. This should not be mistaken for a reduction in the need for community-wide Children's Aid services. While the total number of children in care at any one time may be down, the intensity, the severity of the problems confronting the majority we are called upon to care for, remains high and in some respects is reaching alarming levels. The acting out disturbed youngster of 13 or 14 at odds with his parents, his school and yes to him, the whole community, poses some very real problems for staff.

Hopefully, our input and that of other community resources, may forestall or make unnecessary, the placement of the young person in some form of substitute care. When this is needed, we do not have sufficient foster or group care resources both in numbers and their demonstrated effectiveness, to match the needs of the child. Much of the decline in our foster care resource pool, is due either to the "burn-out" factor for those fostering, or the severity of the child's problem, or both. Staff are telling us that some of the serious degrees of emotional disturbance faced by many a teenager, are evident in our beginning efforts with 4 and 5 year olds.

To remove the child from his home surroundings is generally looked upon as a last resort. The real problem rests in the availability of sufficient

Jack Finlay, Managing Director

community resources being plugged into the home to stabilize it and defuse the potentially explosive circumstances.

CHILD ABUSE AND HIGH RISK SITUATIONS

The amendments to the Child Welfare Act of 1978, spelled out loud and clear, the mandate of the Society in identifying, treating and preventing child abuse. The new legislation also placed a heavier responsibility on professionals, be they social workers, nurses, doctors, teachers, as well as others, to report suspected cases of child abuse. The broadened definition of child abuse which now includes "malnutrition or mental ill health of the child", together with physical harm and sexual molestation, clearly indicates the degree of increased awareness that must be addressed by all citizens in the community. The Society's role was strengthened throughout 1979, by the very significant presence of the Community Child Abuse Council, its Acute Care Teams, Continuing Care Teams, and the Case Management Committee. Together, we as a community, approached child abuse with a more unified and concerted effort. We are proud to be a vital component of this community network of services.

FUNDING IN 1979

The ever present spectre of doubt and uncertainty in the area of financing dogged our tracks throughout the whole of 1979. To operate a program as diversified as that of a Children's Aid Society, with an annual expenditure pattern in excess of 4 million dollars and to have no budget to work with throughout the year, presented real problems for your Society. As will be noted in the Financial Statement, we ended the year with a deficit. However, long-range planning, even short-range decision making, was seriously hampered by the Ministry's failure to address the issue of funding on a more business-like basis, not only for this Society, but the other 50 Children's Aid Societies as well. It is our sincere hope that the financial frustrations of 1979 will soon be behind us and that we may proceed through 1980 and the years to follow, with greater awareness of our financial position. This can only serve to strengthen and lend greater credibility to our goals and objectives. It should be said, however, that we experienced the utmost co-operation in all financial and program areas from Regional Chairman Anne Jones, the various committees of the Regional Council and the Council as a whole. Without their belief in and support of our efforts, the year 1979 could have been much more difficult indeed.

THE NEW DECADE

As we move into 1980 and this new decade, we hope to place more emphasis on "prevention" and thereby preserve and strengthen family life. We realize that for some children though, their needs can only be met in a foster, group, or residential setting. If such is the case, as we have stated before, the resources necessary to meet the child's needs must be there both in quantity and in quality.

Whether our efforts be preventative or protective in nature, we cannot fulfill our mandate to really and truly care for our children, unless we have the complete backing and support of each and every citizen.

To this end we will do our part. Are you as citizens prepared to do yours?

Volunteers Rewarded

Left to right: Maxine Elliott, Paul Donahue, Margaret Anne Gallagher, Michael McFadden

Volunteers help in many ways and finding a way to say thank you to them isn't easy. The solution chosen by Volunteer Co-ordinator Margaret Anne Gallagher and assistant, Maxine Elliott was a "medal of honour" presented in a light-hearted vein at a special dinner for the many volunteers who assisted us with volunteer projects throughout the year.

Many responsible jobs are carried out by volunteers, however some urgent needs have yet to be met such as the need for volunteer drivers.

Plans are in the offing for several new volunteer programs to aid families and children. Interested persons are encouraged to call our Special Services Unit which, in 1980, will be responsible for volunteer activities.

Summary of Revenue and Expenditures
As Of December 31, 1979

Revenue

Province of Ontario	$ 3,196,297	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	756,000	
		$ 3,952,297
Gasoline Tax Rebate	4,804	
Other Societies	44,678	
Official Guardian Reports	11,200	
Research Design Project	1,314	
Membership Fees	2,008	
Payments from Parents, etcetera	16,489	
Department of National Health and Welfare	110,774	
Investment Interest	6,537	
Miscellaneous	444	
		198,248
		$ 4,150,545

Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	$ 1,968,078	
Building Occupancy	113,800	
Office Expense	86,179	
Training, Education and Conferences	5,089	
Promotion and Publicity	15,425	
Purchased Services (Non Medical)	62,241	
Transportation	57,281	
Boarding Rate Payments	1,659,669	
Health and Allied Services	43,279	
Child and Client Personal Needs	201,673	
Emergency Assistance	9,929	
Miscellaneous	13,602	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$ 4,236,245
EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF REVENUE		85,700

Auditors: H.R. Doane & Company
An audited statement of the Society's financial operation for the year 1979 is available for study at the Society's office upon request.

Foster Parents Really Are Special

The highlight of the Foster Parent Recognition Night held on November 2nd, 1979 was the presentation of agency gold pins and $100.00 bonds to foster parents with twenty-five and more years of service. Pictured above are the foster parents in that category who were present that evening. Left to right clockwise: Mrs. Robert Bulleyment; Jack Finlay, Managing Director with Mr. and Mrs. George Edwards; Mrs. Mary Muir; James Patterson, Vice President with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Oddson; Mr. Patterson with Mrs. Annie Walmsley and Mr. and Mrs. John Ross.

Foster parents in the twenty-five year and over category who were absent that evening due to illness included: Mrs. Olive Andrews; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Baxter; Mr. Robert Bulleyment and Mr. and Mrs. George Cruden.

The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton — Wentworth
143 Wentworth Street, South,
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annual report

OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

1980: YEAR OF THE FAMILY

ORB/MUN

J. PATTERSON, PRESIDENT

As your president for the past year, it is my privilege to present this report to the membership and staff of the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth and in it, to reflect briefly on some of the highlights that occurred during my term of office.

In terms of priorities, I have always placed the greatest emphasis on human resources and this philosophy seems to be self-evident within the Children's Aid Society. I would like to personally thank the staff members for their dedication and hard work on behalf of families. My thanks also go out to the board of directors for their co-operation and understanding efforts behind the scenes.

For the second time in as many years, it was my privilege to attend the Foster Parents' Recognition Night at Mohawk College and both occasions were very successful and meaningful. Foster parents are indeed very special people and I take this opportunity to say thanks again to each one of them for giving so much of themselves to children in this community.

I was privileged to have had a small part in the acquisition of our computer hardware and software and to the rest of the committee a special vote of thanks is in order for their hard work. A great deal of planning and research was done, together with visits to a number of agencies with computer installations, before a final decision was made on the type and cost of our computer. We feel certain the committee's decision was right for us and I'm sure this modern technical innovation will enhance our case management and bookkeeping systems immeasurably.

I also acknowledge the contribution members of our staff made as field placement supervisors for students at Mohawk College last year. In recognition of their service, the college presented a very attractive plaque to the agency.

"Volunteers are an important and necessary part of this agency's delivery of service and as such, staff at all levels should utilize them wherever and whenever possible." This was a policy statement regarding the use of volunteers that was approved by the board last year and resulted in a greater emphasis being placed on the use of volunteers. I join with the rest of the board in applauding their efforts. In recognition of their important contribution to child care, full membership and voting privileges have been extended to them.

It is the board's intention to establish a committee to deal with long range planning this coming year. A quick look back at changes that have occurred over the past five years is only one of the indications of what is forecast for the forseeable future and beyond, so planning is a vital part of our administration.

Finally, I am pleased to report that debentures in the amount of $475,000., issued by the County of Wentworth in 1970 for our building expansion have been retired and the building is now free and clear.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for the support, co-operation and encouragement they have given to me in my first year as President, particularly the Managing Director, Jack Finlay. I join with the Board of Directors in a collective vote of thanks for his many years of dedicated service to the Children's Aid Society and to this community.

I would also like to thank the following members of the board who are retiring as of this annual meeting : Miss Patricia Nevidon, Dr. James Allison, Mr. Glen Etherington, Mrs. Phyllis Ford, Mr. James Kern, Mrs. Dorothy Jones and Professor William McCallion. Each in his or her own unique way enriched children's services in Hamilton-Wentworth by the contribution of their time and talents, freely and unselfishly given.

Report of the Managing Director, Jack Finlay

As we crossed the threshold of a new decade January 1st, we did so with mixed emotions. For the past five years it seemed that we were continually beset with budgeting problems. Short, medium and long-range planning was but a dream to be realized. While we were able to survive financially throughout this period, it was not without much concern and ongoing frustration. To operate month to month on but a "cash flow" basis; to not know until mid-year, late fall or early December, where we stood financially, caused your board, staff, and foster parents deep concern as to whether we could fulfill our mandate under the law in the provision of service to the children and families of this Region.

A NEW APPROACH TO FUNDING

The year 1980 held much promise. A new approach to funding being taken by the Ministry served to offer us renewed hope. Basic to this approach was the elimination of the close "line-by-line" budgeting process conducted by Ministry personnel in the past. In its place, the boards of directors of Ontario's Children's Aid Societies were being allowed much greater flexibility in their financial stewardship. It permitted us to think and plan ahead; to establish priorities; to begin to act in the area of "prevention: a component of the Child Welfare Act often neglected in times of budget restraints.

This new concept of funding, now commonly referred to as the Service Plan method, had its beginning in 1980. The full implementation of the "Service Plan" method will have its real test in 1981 and the years to follow. We will actually be able to spell out our services in more clear cut detail, for the benefit not only of our board and staff, but the community as a whole. Furthermore, we will be able to document what we can and cannot provide by way of service unless more adequate funds are made available to us.

THE STATISTICAL STORY

In this report you will find comparative years which serve to highlight certain trends being

experienced by your Society. There has been a long-standing belief that for most children, the "best interests" of the child can be served if he remains within the family constellation. This does not mean that for some children, however, a period in a foster or group home under the supervision of the Society may not be to his or her benefit. However, long or extended periods stretching into years may not serve the child's best interests. The pressures on today's parents are heavy and demanding. In some instances they become too great to bear, and the home as a unit oftentimes disintegrates.

In 1980 we admitted more children into some form of substitute care than in any period during the past five years. The vast majority of these children were in the 13 to 15 age bracket and "parent-child conflict" was the prime reason for admission to our care. Largely through the efforts of your staff, the length of stay in care reflected in "days care" totals, were not correspondingly increased, as one might expect. Time and experience indicate that in some cases, relieving the pressure on the family unit when it reaches the breaking-point and then working conscientiously with both parent and child while separated, the family can be reunited in a comparatively short period of time. Now what we are pursuing is the belief that we can only reduce "admissions" to care, if we are able to introduce viable alternative plans for parents and the child to consider. Thus the introduction in the early fall of 1980 of our Adolescent Day Care or After School Program. Suffice to say, in the short time it has been in operation, we have noted significant and positive results. Parents and their teenagers, when given an opportunity to enter into a contract with us, do respond to positive, constructive approaches to the resolution of the problems they hold in common.

CHILDREN IN TREATMENT SETTINGS

Throughout 1980 we made a concerted effort to reduce the number of children placed in what are commonly referred to as "outside institutions". These are often considered to be highly specialized treatment settings ranging from $36. to $150. per day or higher. It has been estimated that if through the intensified efforts of one social worker on behalf of but one child, which obviates the necessity of him being placed in such an environment at even the lowest figure of $36. per day, the worker, in some instances, replaces his or her salary over the course of a year. At $150. per day or $54,750. per year per child, your Society must consider every possible alternative, providing it is consistent with the child's needs. Furthermore, we must ask

Jack Finlay, Managing Director

ourselves if we reduced caseloads by engaging more staff to provide greater input while the child remains in his own home, would this not be a better application of $54,750.? Or could a foster or group home parent meet the child's needs if we were to guarantee greater staff involvement in times of crisis?

CHILDREN AT RISK

Our "new and reopened" family cases each year continue at a heavy and demanding level. Upwards of 40% of these family situations contain discernible components of high risk, involving actual or potential abuse for children. Once again, high caseloads and community demand for prompt and effective service to children and their parents remain high on our priority list of services which need strengthening. In this respect, our involvement with the Community Child Abuse Team has made significant inroads on this very pressing and demanding problem. A community approach, not just a Children's Aid Society solo effort, is needed. Child abuse, its recognition, treatment and prevention, rests on the shoulders of us all as concerned citizens, not just the CAS.

FOSTER CARE PARENTING

The very heart and core of our "in care" service resources for children rests with our foster parents. The pressures upon them have mounted with each passing year. Yet they still respond to our cries for help when the need for their input is greatest. Unfortunately, too heavy a load is falling on the shoulders of too few citizens. Throughout the year we have endeavoured to show our appreciation of their efforts through our Second Annual Foster Parent Recognition Night and the development of a clear-cut policy with respect to "information sharing" about children entrusted to their care and ours. This policy was the result of the combined efforts of a special committee struck by our Services Committee and included board, foster parents and staff representation. To add a further dimension, Dr. Barbara Rosenblum completed the second and final phase of her research entitled, "A Second Look at Foster Homes and Adolescents". Out of this research has emerged a number of valuable and far reaching recommendations which your board of directors, staff, and Foster Parents' Association will continue to address. Another important example of how foster parents, board and staff can and do work together, was in the completion of a detailed questionnaire by a significant number of foster parents as to how they felt about the Society and the support it afforded them. The answers were frank, to the point, refreshing and caused much soul-searching. This, we believe, is good for us all. We will be addressing their responses for some time to come.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

One of the most far reaching accomplishments of 1980, was the documentation of short, medium and long range goals and objectives. Again this was the result of many months of effort on the part of board and staff alike. As was stated at the outset, until the introduction of the new funding concept by the Ministry, Societies, including our own, were unable to plan over the long and short haul, particularly when money was so often the catalyst needed to assure improved and strengthened services. So it is with renewed hope that your board, staff, foster parents, parent-aides and volunteers can look to the future and plan accordingly.

Perhaps there will never be enough funding available to do all that is needed. However, we shall continue to do our part as a Society to make this a better and happier community for those children and their parents we are privileged to assist in time of need.

Thanks for Caring

Thanks to our Summer Program Fund donors, 238 children had an enriching summer experience.

Summary of Revenue and Expenditures
As Of December 31, 1980

Revenue

Province of Ontario	$ 3,629,118	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	901,692	
		$ 4,530,810
Gasoline Tax Rebate	1,624	
Other Societies	45,875	
Official Guardian Reports	7,269	
Ministry Reimbursements	7,911	
Membership Fees	3,366	
Payments from Parents, etcetera	22,883	
Department of National Health and Welfare	112,099	
Investment Interest	33,193	
Family Life Education	1,610	
Private Adoption Fees	1,212	
		$ 237,042
		$ 4,767,852

Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	$ 2,184,110	
Building Occupancy	126,394	
Office Expense	104,006	
Training, Education and Conferences	5,364	
Promotion and Publicity	12,661	
Purchased Services (Non Medical)	89,895	
Transportation	62,985	
Boarding Rate Payments	1,667,832	
Health and Allied Services	45,773	
Child and Client Personal Needs	237,052	
Emergency Assistance	11,198	
Miscellaneous	67,180	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$ 4,614,450
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES		153,402

Auditors: H.R. Doane & Company
An audited statement of the Society's financial operation for the year 1980 is available for study at the Society's office upon request.

Your C.A.S. Today and Yesterday

At a well attended meeting on January 22, 1894, a Children's Aid Society was organized in Hamilton. This was largely the result of the efforts of the Honourable John M. Gibson, a Hamiltonian who - with John Joseph Kelso - had been responsible for the passage of the Children's Protection Act in 1892.

In the early days, the society functioned on a basis of volunteer assistance largely through the Ladies Visiting Committee, and a secretary, Mr. William Hunter. Money to provide service was derived from paid memberships, gifts and a City Council grant of $150.00 per year.

From this humble beginning the society grew to an organization with a budget in the millions, employing a staff of over 100.

Originally, the society serviced the entire population of Hamilton. However, in 1954 when the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth was incorporated as a separate entity, our society's function became that of providing service to all non-Catholic families.

In 1966, amalgamation with the Children's Aid Society of Wentworth County took place; and the new organization became known as the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth.

The Children's Aid Society

ITS ROLE, ITS PURPOSE, ITS POSITION IN LAW

The Child Welfare Act of Ontario under which your Society functions states:

1. Every society shall be incorporated under the Corporations Act or a predecessor thereof as a corporation without share capital and shall be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
2. Every society shall be operated for the purposes of,

a. investigating allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protection;

b. protecting children where necessary;

c. providing guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;

d. providing care for children assigned or committed to its care under this or any other Act;

e. supervising children assigned to its supervision under this or any other Act;

f. placing children for adoption;

g. assisting the parents of children born or likely to be born outside of marriage and their children born outside of marriage; and

h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.

3. Every society shall,

a. provide the standard of services relating to the purposes set out in subsection 2 of section 6; and

b. follow the procedures and practices that shall be prescribed by the Minister.

Board of Directors and Officers 1980 — 1981

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Mr. N.F. Williams

*Regional Councillor

Some Facts and Figures

* Year End Total	1979	1980
Admitted to care through Family Services Department	307	385
Admitted to care through Unmarried Parents Unit	35	39
Children discharged from care	364	460
New and re-opened Family Services Cases	2,245	2,374
Closed Family Services Cases	2,300	2,444
*Family Services Caseload	795	740
New and re-opened Unmarried Parents Cases	70	61
Closed Unmarried Parents Cases	52	77
*Unmarried Parents Caseload	39	23
Applications to Adopt	79	88
Children Placed on Adoption	48	56
*Total Children in Care	410	374
Applications to Board	75	
Total Paid Board Days Care	102,826	101,070
Total Paid Institution Days	18,115	15,117

Services to Families

Services to families experiencing problems which are affecting their children are provided by our Family Service Department, which is made up of seven units of social workers. Several of the units provide special- services: the Intake unit deals with all initial requests for service and referrals; two Adolescent units deal strictly with cases where conflict between parent and teenager is the main presenting problem; and the Child Abuse Unit handles all reports of abuse made by professionals. The balance of the units carry more generalized, long term cases.

About half the cases dealt with by this department are people requesting help; the balance are complaints or referrals from the community. Clients come from all walks of life but in recent years there has been a noticeable increase in the number of middle class families receiving service.

INTAKE TRENDS

1980 saw a continued increase in the number of cases despite the fact that the definition of our role has become one of crisis intervention.

Also noted was the fact that greater community consciousness about child abuse has resulted in complaints classified as abuse that complainants previously would have called neglect.

A very high proportion of our cases involve single parents who have either never married or who married young and later separated. Their problems often relate to emotional rejection of their children; behavior management problems or conflict with new partners. Often these parents are young, irresponsible and involved in unstable relationships. Also on the increase were the number of parents requesting temporary foster care for their children because of their own hospitalization for nervous problems. We are still seeing drug related problems with young parents, but by far the largest problem area is parents' inability to understand and parent their children. Common to many families is a high degree of social isolation with little extended family support.

Despite the fact that more children were admitted to foster care, the durations of the placements were much shorter because of our emphasis on keeping families together and also because of the growth of support services such as visiting homemakers.

SINGLE PARENTS

Continuation of the trend towards unmarried mothers keeping their babies without seeking counselling about alternatives has meant a continued drop in the number of girls using our single parent services. The majority who do, tend to be in the 16 to 18 year age group. Almost half of the few we do see decide to keep their babies and part of our service involves connecting them with pre-natal resources in the community. The lack of post natal support services and the young age of the mothers, has meant increasing C.A.S. concern for the single mother and her child.

Summer Enrichment

Summer is a special time for pre-school children, staff and teenaged volunteers when our Montessori based Nu-Kool School is in session. Activities such as feeding baby skunks and listening to stories may look like pure fun; but in reality all the activities at the school are designed to enrich the children's sensory experiences and provide a sound foundation for later social, emotional language and motor skills. The program also includes a strong emphasis on nutrition and the world of nature; but even this is done in a fun way through field visits to the market and parks, and crafts based on the designs found in natural products.

Family Life Education

With the appointment of a full time Co-ordinator, this program has moved into high gear.

Nine Parent Study Groups were organized in 1980, using the Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (S.T.E.P.) approach to teaching parenting skills. In addition, 4 monthly all day workshops on subjects such as Infant Stimulation, Youth and Drugs, The Family and Keeping Families Together were conducted, as well as special evening presentations and community luncheons. Key resource people were involved in these activities which have been well received by the general public and professionals alike.

Services to Children

Although our major goal is keeping families together, there are many times that children must come into foster care. When this happens, ideally we should have a complete range of resources available for children of all ages, ranging from emergency homes to regular, specialized and group foster homes. In reality, we often have shortages in all areas. A province-wide advertising campaign in 1980 has done much to increase public consciousness of the problem; however, the need for the recruitment of new families remains critical.

ALTERNATE AND INSTITUTIONAL CARE

While most children return to their own homes from foster care or go on to adoption, there are many for whom long term foster care is the only answer. In these cases, C.A.S. remains responsible for the child until age 18 to ensure that he/she receives the quality of physical and emotional care that a good parent would provide.

ADOPTION

Children become available for adoption in two ways: single mothers giving up their babies, and the court declaring children Crown Wards following irreparable family breakdowns.

Because of the trend towards single parents keeping their babies, adoption in the 80's tends to be the adoption of older children.

Our first subsidized adoption took place in 1980. It involved a severely handicapped child and a couple who already had adopted several handicapped children. The subsidy was awarded to supplement the increased costs in caring for the child. The concept is new to Ontario and should do much to assist us in finding homes for other hard to place children.

120 adopted persons came to us seeking non identifying information about their birth parents: and about half requested help in placing their names on the Provincial Registry in the hope of a reunion. Significantly, few biological parents have approached us for information about a child who had been placed for adoption.

SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

Our unit of Child Care Workers has continued to act as a resource for natural, adoptive and foster parents who are having difficulty in handling behaviour problems. In most cases, the service is provided for a brief period of time and the success rate has remained high. The presence of our own Psychometrist in this unit has already proven highly beneficial in the assessment of problems such as under achievement and emotional disturbance.

Parent Aide Graduation; l. to r. A. Lynham, Jack Finlay, D. Richmond, J. Brooks and A. Woolcott

Help to Abusive Families

A decrease in the number of reported cases of sexual abuse in 1980 was countered by an increase in physical abuse and high risk cases. At one time it was felt that abuse was more prevalent among pre-school children; however our statistics indicated that a large number involved school aged children. Only one third of the children involved had to be admitted to foster care. The balance of the children were able to remain in their own homes under our supervision, with specialized input from many of the community resources provided by the 21 organizations that form the Community Child Abuse Team, of which our agency is a member.

1980 saw an expansion of our highly successful Parent Aide Program. Parent Aides are para-professionals whose greatest skills lie in parenting. They are paid a nominal fee by the agency to become involved intensively with abusive and high risk parents, as a complement to the role of the social worker. Often the abusive parent has himself been abused as a child and therefore has only a negative view of what a parent is. It is therefore up to the Parent Aide - through her non-judgemental, supportive relationship with the client - to provide a positive model of what a good parent should be. In a sense, the Parent Aide "parents" the parents and provides the nurturing and teaching of skills that was missing in their formative years.

Two groups of women have graduated from the intensive training program which preceeds placement as a Parent Aide; and several of the more experienced Aides are now working with more than one family.

Adolescent Problems

Some 10 social workers and two supervisors are actively engaged in handling "crisis level" conflicts between parents and teenagers. Many of the cases involve middle class families who are at the end of their rope because of youngsters who run away; refuse to accept limits or go to school; exhibit acting out behaviour or are emotionally disturbed. On the other hand, many of the youngsters are reacting to physically abusive discipline, sexual abuse or unrealistic parental expectations.

While we admit only a minimal number of these teenagers into foster care, we are - in addition to family counselling - attempting to create innovative programs to remove some of the stress within the family. One such approach is the Adolescent After School Program located in St. Peter's Anglican Church. In order to get their teenagers into the activity program, which operates daily from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m., parents must agree to participate in group counselling sessions with staff and other parents.

Results of the After School program seem to indicate it not only removes home pressures, it also often brings families closer in the long run.

Hats Off to Volunteers

Whether they are painting clown faces on children at the Foster Parent Association picnic, or filling more serious roles such as tutor, "special friend", case aide, clerical helper or baby sitter, volunteers provide invaluable service. Not only do they save hundreds of hours of staff time, but also they provide richment to our families and children.

Still urgently needed are volunteer drivers who will escort children to clinics and on visits to their families. Whether you have only two hours a week to spare, or 100 hours a month like one of our retired male drivers, we can use your services. If you are interested, call our Volunteer Co-ordinator for information.

The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton — Wentworth
143 Wentworth Street, South,
Hamilton, Ontario. L8N 2Z1

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annual report

OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

URB/MUN

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1981

JAMES PATTERSON, PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With this report, I bring to a close my term as President of the Board of Directors of the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth. The past two years have been among the most rewarding in my career as I shared with the Board and staff in the work of one of the most vital organizations for children and families within our province.

This year was the Year of the Disabled: a year in which our country addressed itself to the feelings and needs of handicapped citizens. Children's Aid is often called upon to provide service to children with both physical, mental and emotional handicaps: a task which would be impossible were it not for the services of people like foster mother, Annie Walmsley. In November of 1981, I had the sincere pleasure of presenting an award to Mrs. Walmsley at the third annual Foster Parents' Recognition Dinner in recognition of her thirty-five years of service as a foster parent. During those thirty-five years, she cared for over 500 mentally and physically handicapped youngsters, most of whom were able to move on to adoption thanks to her loving care.

Joining Mrs. Walmsley in the place of honour were other foster parents with similar records of service: Alice and Russell Baxter, Audrey and Bob Bulleyment (30 years) Lorraine and Frank Gall, Eveline and Albert Savage (25 years). Truly foster parents are remarkable people and it is with deep humility that I express my gratitude and that of the agency to these very special people.

1981 was also the year that Jack Finlay, Managing Director for over 28 years, left the Society to assume new responsibilities with the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. Jack Finlay's contribution to child welfare is intimately known throughout the length and breadth of this province, and I consider it a great privilege to have shared my years on the Board with a man who was not only deeply conscientious and knowledgeable, but also sincerely dedicated to the needs of the children and families we serve. His is a hard act to follow, but I am sure that in Sylvio Mainville, our new Director, we have found a most worthy successor.

Despite serious cutbacks to the budgets of other social agencies in the community, due to poor economic conditions and shortfalls in charitable donations, Children's Aid was fortunate in 1981 to have benefitted from an exciting, innovative Service Plan budgeting system instituted by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Much of the administrative energy which in recent years had been tied up in budgetary battles has been freed for use in creative programming. Careful attention has also been paid to cost saving measures such as the new plan to have the dental needs of our children provided through the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Health Unit.

Before leaving my post as President of the Board, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who made my association with the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth such a meaningful experience: the administrative and front-line staff who, despite community pressures and shortages of resources, have continued the 24 hour a day, 7 days a week battle to protect children and assist families; the foster parents who are the backbone of our services to children, and the volunteers who give so freely of their time and talents. Lastly, I would also like to draw attention to the 30 dedicated members of the Board and in particular; Mr. Don Heer, Mr. John Rowley, Mr. Joseph Sams, and Mr. Reg Whynott, who are retiring from the Board this year. Collectively they have committed their knowledge and expertise to over 1800 hours of voluntary service on the Board and its various committees; individually they have contributed their care and concern for children.

To my successor, John Reesor, I extend my best wishes for an exciting and challenging term as President. It isn't easy to be part of an organization that is so consistently under fire, but the knowledge of how vital the services provided are to the children of this community makes it well worth the effort.

HATS OFF TO VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers provide an invaluable service to C.A.S.; without them many programs could not function. For instance, our crafts and mothers' support groups, afternoon parenting and foster parent training groups are dependent on our being able to supply babysitting by volunteers. Nu Cool School that provides special stimulation to pre-schoolers is run by trained teenage volunteers and the After School Program for Adolescents has volunteer craft and activity leaders. While much of their activity involves group work, there are volunteers involved on a one-to-one basis as tutors, 'special friends' or as absolutely indispensable drivers. Clerical responsibilities are also carried out by a loyal band of volunteer helpers. Our hats are off to our volunteers. Thank you for caring and for sharing your time and talents with us.

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, SYLVIO MAINVILLE

I am pleased to present my first report to the membership of the Society for the year 1981.

As in previous years, we have attempted to include relevant statistical data which highlights service trends and to give you a picture of a select number of the many service activities that describe our work with the children and families of this region.

SERVICE PLANNING

The Service Plan approach to funding was first introduced in 1980, and fully implemented during 1981. It has provided a useful planning tool and a more equitable method of allocating resources to Children's Aid Societies. The new approach has also re-established the role of the Board of Directors in the setting of priorities and responsibility for the overall direction of their Societies. Further refinement of the funding formula is still required, as well as a strong commitment at the provincial level of sufficient financial resources to ensure its viability for the future.

SERVICE GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The agency continued its thrust to strengthen and support family life and thus to maintain children in their own homes whenever possible. Our emphasis on parent education and child management programs was maintained through the use of the S.T.E.P. parenting programs and of special projects such as the adolescent craft groups, single mothers groups, volunteer services, and other programs. The Family Life Education Program continued its community prevention focus designed to preserve, maintain, and support family life through presentations of relevant topics dealing with various aspects of family life. A great deal of effort has been put into prevention of placement, particularly in regard to adolescents, where the experimental Adolescent After School Program has indicated some effectiveness in reaching this goal. The agency network of residential resources was also improved in quality through a collaborative exercise between our Placement Resources and Special Services Units.

SERVICES TO HIGH RISK FAMILIES

The Society has attempted to strengthen its services to children at high risk during 1981. The increase in the number of Parent Aides to provide help with parenting and child management skills has been successful in helping parents cope with daily living. The Society has reviewed its policies and procedures to ensure their compliance with Ministry Standards and Guidelines on Child Abuse issued in 1981. The Society is also participating in the development of a Ministry-sponsored training program to contribute to the effectiveness of child protection in Hamilton-Wentworth. This is to be achieved by training selected professionals and agency staff in collaborative and co-operative methods relating to all essential aspects of service in protecting children.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

A new standing committee was set up to recommend, update and monitor long range plans for the Society, and to determine its future direction and priorities. In 1981 the committee began the task of clearly defining its mandate and process, and reviewing social, economic and other relevant factors which may impact on the delivery of child welfare services in Hamilton-Wentworth in the years ahead.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW

In the latter part of 1981, the Ministry conducted an Operational Review of the society. The purpose of the review was to examine the overall operation of the Society in three major areas: management, finance and programs. The Review Team have completed their task of gathering relevant data with a view to preparing a report and making appropriate recommendations to the Board of Directors for the effective and efficient operation of the Society. The Society hopes to receive the report in early 1982. It is our hope that it can be of assistance in planning for change and bringing about useful and necessary modifications to strengthen our service delivery and management support systems enabling us to become even more responsive to the needs of our community.

COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION SYSTEM

As of July 1st, 1981, we were fully computerized with respect to accounts payable, including individual vendor accounts. The general ledger which includes manual cheques and journal entries has also been loaded onto our system. We ran both the computer system and our manual system through April, May and June after which we were satisfied with the accuracy of the computer system, resulting in the decision to make the transition complete. In the coming year, we will introduce a case management information system and make other changes necessary for the development of a comprehensive and integrated information system.

THE FUTURE

There is a growing feeling that the year 1982 will be particularly difficult in view of the current state of the economy and the general uncertainty that we all feel about the future. There is without question, a great deal of stress on families who are faced with having to cope with unemployment, high mortgages and other social and economic problems affecting their day-to-day living. In view of reduced funding to the voluntary service sector, many of the social agencies in our community have already suffered cutbacks to their services and consequently the demand for our services may increase in 1982. It is essential that we maintain a strong advocacy role and continue to be a strong voice in support of the families and children that we serve in our community.

SUMMARY OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND SURPLUS
AS OF DECEMBER 31st, 1981

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	$3,966,683	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	985,169	4,951,852
Gasoline Tax Rebate	936	
Other Societies	39,436	
Official Guardian Reports	6,819	
Ministry Reimbursements	1,556	
Membership Fees	3,940	
Payments from Parents	22,644	
Department of National Health and Welfare	107,423	
Investment Interest	105,569	
Family Life Education	5,072	
Adoption Fees	3,598	
Other	1,154	298,147
TOTAL REVENUE		$5,249,999

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Benefits	2,531,694	
Building Occupancy	77,666	
Office Expense	124,958	
Training, Education and Conferences	9,011	
Promotion and Publicity	24,966	
Purchased Services (Non-Medical)	102,508	
Transportation	75,957	
Boarding Rate Payments	1,692,972	
Health and Allied Services	46,307	
Child and Client Personal Needs	290,340	
Emergency Assistance	9,860	
Miscellaneous	9,703	
Capital Costs	10,000	
Non-Recurring Costs	8,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		5,013,942
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES		236,057

SURPLUS

1980 Surplus	153,402	
Revenue in Excess of Expenditures — 1981	236,057	389,459
Appropriations		
Reserves	256,450	
Computer and Office Equipment	67,000	323,450
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES (END OF YEAR)		66,009

Auditors: H. R. Doane & Company
An audited statement of the Society's financial operation for the year 1981 is available for study at the Society's office upon request.

YOUR C.A.S. TODAY AND YESTERDAY

At a well attended meeting on January 22, 1894, a Children's Aid Society was organized in Hamilton. This was largely the result of the efforts of the Honourable John M. Gibson, a Hamiltonian who — with John Joseph Kelso — had been responsible for the passage of the Children's Protection Act in 1892.

In the early days, the society functioned on a basis of volunteer assistance largely through the Ladies Visiting Committee, and a secretary, Mr. William Hunter. Money to provide services was derived from paid memberships, gifts and a City Council grant of $150.00 per year.

From this humble beginning the society grew to an organization with a budget in the millions, employing a staff of over 100.

Originally, the society serviced the entire population of Hamilton. However, in 1954 when the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth was incorporated as a separate entity, our society's function became that of providing service to all non-Catholic families.

In 1966, amalgamation with the Children's Aid Society of Wentworth County took place; and the new organization became known as the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth.

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

ITS ROLE, ITS PURPOSE, ITS POSITION IN LAW

The Child Welfare Act of Ontario under which your Society functions states:

1. Every society shall be incorporated under the Corporations Act or a predecessor thereof as a corporation without share capital and shall be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
2. Every society shall be operated for the purposes of,
   a. investigating allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protection;
   b. protecting children where necessary;
   c. providing guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
   d. providing care for children assigned or committed to its care under this or any other Act;
   e. supervising children assigned to its supervision under this or any other Act;
   f. placing children for adoption;
   g. assisting the parents of children born or likely to be born outside of marriage and their children born outside of marriage; and
   h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.
3. Every society shall,
   a. provide the standard of services relating to the purposes set out in subsection 2 of section 6; and
   b. follow the procedures and practices that shall be prescribed by the Minister.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON WENTWORTH
143 Wentworth Street South, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 2Z1

1981-1982

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Mr. J. Southall
Dr. J. Stowe
*Mrs. B. Ward
Mrs. D. Webber
Mr. R. Whynott
Mr. N. Williams

*Regional Councillor

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

*YEAR END TOTAL	1980	1981
Admitted to care through Family Services Department	385	319
Admitted to care through Unmarried Parents Unit	39	29
Children discharged from care	460	345
New and reopened Family Services Cases	2,374	2,236
Closed Family Services Cases	2,444	2,240
*Family Services Caseload	740	736
New and reopened Unmarried Parents Cases	61	63
Closed Unmarried Parents Cases	77	67
*Unmarried Parents Caseload	23	19
Applications to Adopt	88	73
Children Placed on Adoption	56	5[illegible]
*Total Children in Care	374	377
Applications to Board	67	46
Total Paid Board Days Care	101,070	93,995
Total Paid Institution Days	15,117	13,542

SERVICES TO FAMILIES

Service to families with children under 16 years of age, who are experiencing problems, is provided by the eight units of social workers in our Family Service Department. Several of the units provide specialized services. The Intake Unit deals with all initial requests for services and referrals where the children are under 13; two Adolescent Units deal strictly with cases where conflict between parent and teenager is the main presenting problem; the After School Program Unit provides an alternative to foster care for adolescents; and the Child Abuse Unit handles all reports of abuse made by professionals. The balance of the units carrying more generalized, longer term cases.

About 60% of the cases handled by this department represent requests for help by parents or children; the balance are complaints or referrals from the community. Clients come from all walks of life but in recent years we have become increasingly involved with middle class families.

INTAKE TRENDS

Of the 2,236 cases dealt with in 1981, by far the largest number involved young, unmarried or uncommitted parents. Unstable relationships, fragmentation of family structure and isolation in the community produced situations where children were being abused, rejected and left without adequate supervision or adequate medical care. By far the largest number of cases involved immature parents, incapable of handling their children's behavior. Also noted was the significant increase in the number of cases involving the sexual abuse of children by substitute fathers.

Contrary to the public misconception that Children's Aid exists to remove children from poor family situations, the majority of cases are treated with the children remaining at home. In fact, only 318 children came into foster care because of family dysfunction and a large percentage of those came with the full consent of their parents.

The role of the intake worker is to address the problem; initiate short term measures such as the placement of a Child Care worker to help parents learn behaviour management techniques or a Parent Aide as a family support; co-ordinate use of other community resources and/or refer the case to other appropriate agencies. If long term help is indicated, the case is referred to a regular Family Service Unit.

PARENT AIDE PROGRAM

Last year saw a further expansion of our highly successful Parent Aide Program through which paraprofessionals with superior parenting skills become intensively involved with abusive families. Over 1,000 hours were spent in training the Aides and they were involved in 5,500 hours of direct service to clients. Their role is to befriend the parents in a non-judgmental, supportive way and once a rapport is established, to teach them parenting skills. They may remain involved for up to eighteen months with client families, withdrawing gradually as the parents' capabilities reach an acceptable level.

SINGLE PARENTS

Despite a slight increase in the number of unmarried mothers seen in 1981, the number of babies coming into care was down to 29. Most of the mothers were 16 to 18 years old and most were keeping their babies. Many were without family support, having left home prior to the pregnancy because of family problems. Although Grace Haven Maternity Home — with the help of the Children's Aid and the Public Health Department — offers both pre natal and post natal help to young mothers to ensure adequate care of their babies, there are no long term community resources available, apart from C.A.S. and Public Health to help these mothers with the multitude of problems they face in raising their children.

There has been a growing positive response to the pre natal classes for single mothers which we sponsor jointly with the Public Health Department at the East End Y.W.C.A. A second pre natal class has also been initiated at a local school.

ADOLESCENT PROBLEMS

Conflicts between teenagers and their parents continue to be a major source of concern to the staff of our Adolescent Units. Many of the cases involved middle class families, who are at the end of their rope because of youngsters who run away, refuse to accept limits or go to school, exhibit acting out behavior or are emotionally disturbed; however cases where incest and sexual abuse are the presenting problem have been increasing. Over 60% of our cases involve single parent or reconstituted families.

In many cases the family has had long standing problems, but when the child becomes a teenager his behavior can no longer be controlled by the physical discipline methods used by the parents. In other cases, the problems are merely part of a very difficult stage of maturation.

Our thrust in working with adolescents is to involve the entire family and to work to retain the child in his own home. Accomplishing this goal requires resources other than foster care to relieve the stresses in the home. One successful alternative is the After School Program whereby teens attend a community based, family oriented program from 4 to 9 p.m. daily, with parents also involved in group counselling sessions. Both parents and adolescents have been enthusiastic as shown by 96% attendance at the centre and a high percentage of stabilized home situations.

A second new approach involves assigning a Child Care Worker to work intensively in the home teaching parents more effective means of managing their teens, handling crisis intervention and in cases where the parent/child situation is at a point of no return, helping the child to move toward independence at age 16.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Parenting today is not an easy job. For this reason we have placed continued emphasis on the teaching of effective parenting skills through our S.T.E.P. program. Hundreds of couples have benefitted from the courses and also from the other special events that form part of this program: all day conferences, evening presentations by guest experts and community luncheons.

We are indebted to our group leaders — who themselves are graduates of our parenting courses — who have made it possible to expand the Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (S.T.E.P.) Program into the community.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Referrals of clients to our various craft, nutrition, life skills, infant and pre-school stimulation programs continue to climb as social workers give recognition to the fact that as well as improving parenting skills, these activities also provide parents with relief from family pressures and an improved sense of self esteem. In addition we continue to provide workshops on these topics to the community.

SERVICES TO CHILDREN

Although the majority of children in the families we serve can be helped in their own homes, 347 children were admitted to some form of foster care during 1981. The majority were placed in regular foster homes or group homes, however in some cases treatment centres or institutional care were required.

In order to provide appropriate care for children, it is necessary to have a wide range of foster home resources from which to choose. Unfortunately the number of applicants wanting to become foster parents reached an all time low of 48 despite year long efforts to promote and publicize foster care. We also lost a significant number of homes as increased mortgage rates and worsening economic conditions forced many foster mothers to seek jobs outside the home.

Recognizing the amount of pressure on a limited number of foster parents, we have placed increasing emphasis on supportive training programs for foster parents such as the T.R.U.S.T. program for parents caring for abused children and S.T.E.P. parenting courses.

FOSTER HOME AND INSTITUTIONAL CARE

Children normally come into care on a temporary basis. When all hope of salvaging their own home fails, they may become Crown Wards which means they are legally free for adoption. However, for many Crown Wards, adoption is not appropriate; instead, long term foster care may be the answer. In 1981 it became apparent that although fewer youngsters were coming into care, those who did were becoming Crown Wards (144 in 1981 as opposed to 112 in1980). While at one time Crown Wardship meant a permanent separation of the child from his natural family, now Crown Wards who are not going on adoption often maintain contact with their families. The role of the Society is seen as one of maintaining the child under adequate supervision, ensuring that he/she receives the most appropriate education and doing everything possible to prepare the child to move on to independence in the community. Part of that preparation may lie in enrolling the youngster in an Independent Life Skills Group such as the one initiated in 1981. This group experience is also available to older younsters who find it impossible to accept a foster family setting and who are in the process of moving into supervised room and board situations. An increasing acceptance of the importance of education in Crown Wards has been noted and 15 young people over 18 are on extended care to enable them to complete their education.

Placement of children in costly treatment centres and paid institutions has continued to drop as specialized foster homes to care for children with special needs have been developed by the agency. An outstanding problem which remains is the lack of community residential resources for retarded young people coming out of C.A.S. care.

ADOPTION

Because of the trend toward the unmarried mother keeping her baby, adoption today frequently involves older children who have become available for adoption as a result of irreparable family breakdown. For example, of the 57 children placed for adoption in 1981, half were over the age of 6 months.

Total figures for the number of children placed for adoption have risen slightly from the all time low of 51 children in 1978 and 1979, however they contrast markedly with the 279 children placed in 1968.

Applications to adopt continue to decline with the majority expressing interest in infants and toddlers. People who call are invited to a series of two or three introductory meetings during which the adoption process is explained and the available children described. Because of the baby shortage, applicants who are interested only in babies often face a waiting period before their homestudy is begun; however, applicants who are willing to accept an older child or one with special needs are given priority.

Our first subsidized adoption of a severely handicapped child was finalized in 1980. The subsidy which will pay for a wheelchair van, a lift and other ongoing expenses was funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in a progressive move toward providing special children with the security of adoption.

At one time, C.A.S. stepped out of the picture completely once an adoption was completed; today — because of the increased number of placements involving older children with special emotional, behavioral and physical needs — we continue to stay involved by providing ongoing support groups for adoptive parents. Additional support was also provided in 1981 by a group of adoptive parents who — with the agency's help — organized a highly successful all day conference on adoption.

Many adopted persons begin in their teen years to be curious about their birth parents and while we cannot give out identifying information, we can often provide some of the answers people are seeking such as health history, nationality, reason for adoption, physical appearance of the birth parents and other non identifying information. In 1981 we conducted 106 interviews about background information with adoptees, 6 with adoptive parents and 5 with birth parents.

SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

Our unit of Child Care Workers has continued to provide a resource for parents who are having difficulty in the management of child behaviour. Referrals to the unit — which uses a concentrated, problem centered, goal oriented approach — have more than doubled since its inception five years ago. Many times, use of the Child Care Workers' skills has served a preventive function and has resulted in a reduction of the need for protective service.

The unit is also active in assessing children who come into care as an aid to planning for their future needs and in conducting play therapy sessions which help children resolve their hidden conflicts.

New last year was a pilot project to research ways of reaching 'difficult to serve' children 15 to 18 years of age who were not attending school yet were not motivated toward working. The success of the pilot project has made development of a full program a high priority for 1982.

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annual report

OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 1982

JOHN M. REESOR, PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"Nothing endures but change." This famous statement was certainly exemplified at the Children's Aid Society this past year.

We had an operational review, conducted under the aegis of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The results were extremely satisfying. I quote in part from the executive summary to it:

"The operational review team is impressed with the high standard of service delivered by the Society to the Hamilton-Wentworth community. The review team found many examples of innovative and effective programs developed to meet the needs of the Society's client population in carrying out its mandate.

Interviews conducted by the review team with all levels of management and staff in the Society, as well as representatives of other community agencies, and a review of Society documents consistently demonstrated the Society's high level of commitment to excellence, and the community's satisfaction with how that commitment was being carried out.

The Society is considered by the review team and the child welfare community to be one of the most effective Societies in the province both in terms of service delivery and management."

Most of the recommendations in the operational review have now been implemented. I feel that their implementation has improved our Society.

In November we held our annual Foster Parent Recognition Night. I am always deeply impressed when I read and hear about the tremendous sacrifices our foster parents make. Many foster parents have been fostering for decades and have fostered incredible numbers of children. Although we do reimburse our foster parents, I have often felt that they are true volunteers. We just wouldn't be anywhere without them.

Another group of people that has deeply impressed me is the contingent of Parent Aides. The Parent Aide program, a relatively recent one in terms of our agency, is a very important one. The early detection and prevention of family strife can only benefit families and the community at large, both in personal and financial terms.

To all our volunteers, I offer the thanks of the Society. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the board members and long-time staff who are leaving our Society. Jim MacDonald and Nancy McAuley are leaving our Society after many years of service on our board and various committees. Their time has been freely and unselfishly given. Adoption Supervisor, Nina Hinks has served our agency for 37 memorable years; Fran Bradt, Accounting Supervisor, has provided us with 24 years of excellent service, and Helen Caldwell's 23 years with us as an adoption worker have been most productive ones. To each and every one of them I offer our heartfelt thanks.

Our financial year has been a good one. Expenditures were very close to budget, while our revenues were up significantly due to higher interest rates and some astute investing. I only wish that governments were run as well as our Society.

Next, I come to the staff of the Society. I have observed them over the years to be a very competent group of people indeed. I have also found them to be most pleasant and obliging to work with. I thank the staff for their support and many courtesies throughout 1982.

Finally, I must thank the members of the Board for all their efforts this past year. Attendance at board and committee meetings is always high and accordingly so is interest. Our Board is one of the finest I've ever worked with and its members must be commended.

John M Reesor

VOLUNTEERS ARE SPECIAL

Volunteers are very special at Children's Aid. Not only do they provide services that supplement the work of social workers, they also enrich the lives of many of our children by their sincerity and personal commitment. In total, volunteers provided 11,000 manhours in 1982 as clerical helpers, tutors, "special friends", baby sitters, drivers, enrichment program assistants and case aides. Sometimes -- as in the case of the case aides who commit themselves to one day's work a week with a social work unit -- the volunteers are recruited to fill a need identified by staff. In other cases -- such as that of the volunteer with experience as an employment counsellor who approached us about helping young people find jobs -- a volunteer job is created to make full use of the applicant's talents. Particularly valuable has been the contribution of the volunteers who assist staff to run a life skills program for Crown Wards and an After-School Program for adolescents.

Our hats are off to our volunteers. Thanks for caring and sharing your time with us.

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, SYLVIO MAINVILLE

I am pleased to present my 1982 annual report to the membership of the Hamilton-Wentworth Society. The report is intended to provide you with an overview of the work of the Society during the past year in the areas of services and administration.

Budget and Service Plan '82

The Society ended the year 1982 with a slight surplus in the amount of $53,895.00 which was due primarily to increased and unanticipated revenue in interest income. The Society was successful in implementing new initiatives in accordance with Service Plan goals and priorities to strengthen our service delivery and administrative structure. A major initiative was the development of a Human Resources position to better address the personnel and staff training functions within the agency. Other significant programs and staff changes were implemented, including the Individualized Treatment Program for hard-to-serve youths, an improved telephone screening service in our Intake Department, a part-time in-house solicitor, and the newly formed Information Support Unit which will ensure the continued development of our computerized information system.

Operational Review Report

A Ministry Operational Review was completed in the Society during 1982. The purpose of the review was to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the total operations of the Society in areas of services, finance and management. A work plan was subsequently prepared to implement, where appropriate, the recommendations contained in the report. The Operational Review Team praised the Society in its report for "the high standard of service delivery to the community".

Service Trends

The most significant trend appears to be an increase in the number of children being cared for in outside institutions. Contributing to the increase in institutional days care were the following factors: increasing difficulty in recruiting regular foster homes, a drop in the availability of residential facilities in the community and an increase in the number of children with special needs.

While the total number of children in care at the end of the year dropped from 377 in 1981 to 347 in 1982, this figure is misleading because the total days care did not decrease significantly. In laymen's terms, this means that while fewer children required foster care thanks to the ever increasing emphasis on working with children in their own homes, children who did come into care did so for longer periods of time.

Protecting Children

Our mandate to protect children from abuse is a difficult one, particularly since there is a public expectation that the child welfare system should never fail in protecting the community's children. Unfortunately, this is a very unrealistic expectation because even the best child welfare system could never watch over every child, every hour of every day. Our Society will, however, continue to work closely with other community agencies and through the Community Child Abuse Council to protect children whenever possible. We will also regularly review our methods of delivering service in order to ensure the best possible use of our resources in the treatment of children who are at risk.

The Future

The only thing certain about predictions is that they are usually wrong. We are, however, quite safe in assuming that the effects of our current economic recession will continue to have a serious impact on families and indirectly on agencies such as our own that provide services to distressed families. Other major factors affecting us during the coming year will likely be the proposed new Children's Act which will amalgamate all legislation regarding children into one act, the Young Offenders Act which will replace the current Juvenile Delinquent Act, and a probable reduction in funding levels for all Children's Aid Societies. While the total impact of these changes is hard to estimate, we are committed to responding as quickly and effectively as possible so that our services to families will not suffer.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Over 1,300 people attended one or more of the highly successful Family Life Education programs conducted in 1982 as a preventive community service. In all, 14 parenting groups, 16 community education presentations and 12 all-day workshops were held, the highlight of the year being the series of workshops conducted by Kathy and Bill Kvols-Riedler, parenting experts from Boulder, Colorado.

In addition to a strong emphasis on teaching parenting skills, topics covered such things as the management of stress, the development of interpersonal and communication skills within marriage and the family and specific problems of childhood. The audiences we attracted included professionals and parents from all walks of life and the image enhancement value of our emphasis on positive parenting proved to be outstanding.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Our craft, nutrition, life skills and child stimulation through play programs continued to provide client mothers with activities geared to improving parenting skills, creating recreational relief from family pressures and improving self-esteem. In addition, life skills and craft projects were conducted for our After-School Program.

The coordinator who designed these projects also acted as a resource person, training Parent Aides in the techniques of play stimulation so that they, in turn, could use these skills in their work with abusive and high risk families. Similar workshops were carried out for 400 Public Health nurses and for adoptive couples who were awaiting infant placements.

A perennial success was the Nu-Cool Summer Play School which provided 18 preschoolers with encouragement, challenge and a sense of pleasure in learning through play.

SERVICES TO FAMILIES

Under the Child Welfare Act, all Children's Aid Societies have the responsibility to provide protective and preventive services to families where the children are under 16 years of age. In our Society, these services are provided by the seven units of social workers in our Family Services Department. Several units provide specialized services: **Intake** deals with all initial requests for service and referrals where the children are 12 and under; two **Adolescent Units** deal solely with parent/teenage conflicts and abuse cases involving adolescents; and the **Child Abuse Unit** handles all reports of abuse made by professionals. Cases requiring long-term attention are referred by the Child Abuse Unit and the regular Intake Unit to the 3 remaining units which carry generalized caseloads.

The majority of cases are treated with the children remaining in their own homes. In fact, only 265 children came into foster care in 1982 as a result of family dysfunction and a large number of these did so with the full consent of their parents.

INTAKE TRENDS

Fewer than 10% of the cases dealt with by our Intake Unit are parents voluntarily requesting help. The majority are cases referred to us by the Board of Education, Public Health, police, hospitals, other professionals, relatives and neighbours who suspect that a child is in need of protection. Families come from various walks of life, but most frequently we are dealing with single parent families, unmarried mothers, reconstituted families and common-law relationships. Seldom do we see intact families. The single mothers tend to average around 23 years of age, with the mean age for reconstituted families being approximately 27. With most of our families, we see similar protection issues: immaturity and irresponsibility of parents, lack of adequate shelter or nurturance, abuse, abandonment, alleged alcohol and drug abuse and marital discord. Particularly with the younger mothers, parenting and child management skills are minimal and often the child comes to our attention because lack of consistency and inappropriate discipline in the early years have led to problems that become visible to outsiders.

About 85% of our intake calls are dealt with on a short-term basis with referrals being made to relevant agencies in the community or to our own Special Services Unit staff who teach behaviour management skills. The balance of cases, where an ongoing need for protection rather than prevention is indicated, become open cases and are transferred to long-term workers. In 1982, there was an increase of 15% in cases requiring short-term intervention. This was due in a large part to inadequate housing and factors related to the recession.

CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse referrals were up 25% in 1982 to an all-time high of 494, however, confirmations of alleged abuse remained roughly the same at 160 cases. Abuse of a physical nature remained dominant, but there was some increase in the reporting of sexual abuse.

Our Parent Aide program, whereby paraprofessionals with outstanding parenting skills play an intensive, supportive, nonjudgmental role with abusive parents, continued to be an outstanding treatment tool. In 1982, our 20 Parent Aides spent 10,000 hours in case-related activities, 6,000 hours of which were direct contact with clients. Of the 51 cases closed in 1982, the final evaluation by both clients and aides showed that in 77% of the cases, the goals were met in full or in part.

SINGLE PARENTS

Requests and referrals for counselling of single, pregnant young women remained at a low of 60 cases. While the age group we saw ranged from 15 to 23 years, the majority were in the 16 to 17 year category. These girls tended to keep their babies and go on Welfare, while the few who surrendered their babies for adoption tended to be from the more mature, older group. In addition to our own group programs on nutrition, infant stimulation and recreation, we continued to sponsor prenatal classes with the Public Health Department at the East End Y.W.C.A. and a west end school.

ADOLESCENT PROBLEMS

Conflicts between teenagers and their parents continued to be a major source of concern and involved families from all walks of life. From a maturational standpoint, adolescence is a period of turmoil; but when you add to this a family history of long-term problems, it can become an explosive time for both parent and child. Inappropriate discipline ceases to work and teens begin to manifest problems such as truancy, running, sibling rivalty, acting-out in the community and drug abuse.

In 1982, the severity of the problems we saw increased dramatically and we continued to be concerned about the large number of cases involving physical and sexual abuse. There was an increase in 12 year olds exhibiting teen problems and we began to see more cases involving females. The main problem group appeared to be 13 to 15 year olds and the cyclical nature of intake -- upsurges following Christmas and the September return to school -- continued.

The major thrust was to retain adolescents in their own home unless their situations were life-threatening. We did this through individual and family counselling and sometimes by assigning a Child Care worker to teach the parents better management techniques or a Parent Aide in the case of abuse situations. The Adolescent After-School Program offered relief to families, as did the summer student grant program, which provided one-to-one help to teenagers in improving their communication and life skills.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

As parent/teenager conflicts coming to our attention grew in number, it became clear that removing children from their own homes was no solution. Often, it led to a total breakup of the family and seldom were parents motivated to work with the Children's Aid Society to get their child back.

A creative solution was to set up an Adolescent After-School Program, which provides relief to families in crisis, yet keeps the child in his own home. The prime factor guaranteeing success for the program is the contract between the agency, the child and his parents, by which all agree to participate fully in individual, group and family counselling.

In 1982, 67 teens and their parents took part in individualized programs, lasting 15 weeks. Evaluation showed that most parents and teens were able to consolidate the gains made during the contract.

SERVICES TO CHILDREN

Although most of the children in the 2,248 familes we dealt with in 1982 were able to remain in their own homes, it was necessary throughout the year for 293 children to be admitted to some form of foster care. The majority were placed in regular foster homes or foster group homes. However, in some cases, treatment centres or outside institutional care was required.

In order to provide appropriate care for children, it is necessary to have a wide range of foster care resources from which to choose. Unfortunately, applications to board dropped to an all-time low of 43 and we continued to lose a significant number of foster homes as increased mortgage rates and worsening economic conditions forced foster mothers to seek employment outside the home.

Recognizing the amount of pressure being placed on our dwindling supply of foster parents, increasing emphasis has been placed on social work support to foster parents and the development of an intensive educational program.

Beginning with a basic training program on child development, parenting and behaviour management, foster parents are gradually exposed to courses on raising other people's children, working with a child's natural parents, the effects of separation on children and discipline techniques. A highly effective T.R.U.S.T. program has also been made available to foster parents caring for abused children.

FOSTER HOME AND INSTITUTIONAL CARE

When a child comes into foster care, this is normally viewed as a temporary situation and we continue to try to resolve the family problems so the child can return home. If it becomes apparent that there is no hope of salvaging the child's own home, the Court usually makes the child a Crown Ward. This procedure legally frees the child for adoption. However, for many Crown Wards, adoption may not be appropriate because of age or the child's ties to his natural family. For these children, long-term foster care with ongoing family contact may be the answer.

The role of the Society in these cases is seen as one of maintaining the child under adequate supervision, ensuring that he/she receives the most appropriate education and doing everything possible to prepare the child for eventual independence in the community.

Part of that preparation may lie in enrolling the youngster in an Independent Life Skills group. This group experience is also available to older youngsters who find it impossible to accept a foster family setting and who are in the process of moving into supervised room and board situations. An increasing acceptance of the importance of education in Crown Wards has been noted and a number of youngsters over 18 have been placed on extended care in order to enable them to complete their education.

Because of a significant drop in the availability of specialized foster homes to care for children with special needs, increased use was made in 1982 of costly treatment centres and paid institutions. The lack of residential resources for retarded young people coming out of our care remains an outstanding problem area.

ADOPTION

Because of the continuing trend toward the unmarried mother keeping her child, adoption today frequently involves the placement of older children who have become Crown Wards because of an irreparable family breakdown. Almost half of the 44 children placed in 1982 were over six months of age.

Applications to adopt rose slightly to 80 couples, most of whom expressed interest in infants and toddlers. Interested couples are invited to several introductory meetings which explain the adoption process. Then, if they wish to proceed, a series of interviews is begun to determine their suitability as adoptive parents and the type of child that might fit into their home. Once their home is approved, the couple is placed on a waiting list for an appropriate child.

Preadoption lecture series are held regularly for approved couples awaiting infants and children over 3. These cover practical areas such as child management and development, as well as preparing couples for the kinds of feelings they may have following adoption. One of the most helpful aspects is the inclusion of a panel of experienced adoptive parents. Recognizing the ongoing needs of adoptive parents -- particularly those with older or special needs children -- postadoption meetings are also held regularly.

Two more subsidized adoptions took place in 1982, one involving a physically handicapped child and the other a child with a need for extensive orthodontic work. Social workers see subsidies as particularly helpful in encouraging suitable applicants and foster parents to adopt children whose care costs would normally create prohibitive barriers to adoption.

While we are unable to give out identifying information to adopted persons who are curious about their birth parents, we are able to provide nonidentifying information such as health history, nationality, the reason for adoption and the physical appearance of the birth parents. We also help people to register with the province if they wish to actually meet their birth parents. If the birth parents also register their interest, reunions are arranged through the agency which handled the adoption. In 1982, we were involved in making the arrangements for 3 of these reunions.

SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

This unit acts as a resource to the entire agency with referrals coming directly from the Family Services Intake Department and from workers in most units of the agency. It has a staff of Child Care workers whose sole function is to teach parents improved methods of child management and discipline. Caseloads are kept deliberately low to enable a concentrated, problem-centred, goal-oriented, approach in the child's own home. Often, the high success rate means a lowering of cases needing protective rather than preventive help.

Innovative techniques are constantly being developed using game and play therapy, as well as one-to-one relationships.

In addition to a psychilogical testing service, the unit also developed an Individualized Treatment Program for children coming out of institutional and group home care to teach them the life skills necessary for independent living.

YOUR C.A.S. TODAY AND YESTERDAY

At a well attended meeting on January 22, 1894, a Children's Aid Society was organized in Hamilton. This was largely the result of the efforts of the Honorable John M. Gibson, a Hamiltonian who – with John Joseph Kelso – had been responsible for the passage of the Children's Protection Act in 1892.

In the early days, the society functioned on a basis of volunteer assistance largely through the Ladies Visiting Committee, and a secretary, Mr. William Hunter. Money to provide services was derived from paid memberships, gifts and a City Council grant of $150.00 per year.

From this humble beginning the Society grew to an organization with a budget in the millions, employing a staff of over 100.

Originally, the Society served the entire population of Hamilton. However, in 1954 when the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth was incorporated as a separate entity, our Society's function became that of providing service to all non-Catholic families.

In 1966, amalgamation with the Children's Aid Society of Wentworth County took place; and the new organization became known as the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth.

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

ITS ROLE, ITS PURPOSE, ITS POSITION IN LAW

The Child Welfare Act of Ontario under which your Society functions states:

1. Every society shall be incorporated under the Corporations Act or a predecessor thereof as a corporation without share capital and shall be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
2. Every society shall be operated for the purposes of,
   a. investigating allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protection;
   b. protecting children where necessary;
   c. providing guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
   d. providing care for children assigned or committed ot its care under this or any other Act;
   e. supervising children assigned to its supervision under this or any other Act;
   f. placing children for adoption;
   g. assisting the parents of children born or likely to be born outside of marriage and their children born outside of marriage; and
   h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.
3. Every society shall,
   a. provide the standard of services relating to the purposes set out in subsection 2 of section 6; and
   b. follow the procedures and practices that shall be prescribed by the Minister.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

143 Wentworth Street South, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 2Z1

1982-1983

Honorary Solicitors

Mr. J. E. Milne, Q.C. — Mr. J. F. Reesor, Q.C.

Officers and Directors

President . . . . . Mr. J. M. Reesor
Past President . . . . . Mr. J. R. Patterson
Vice-President . . . . . Mr. D. Smith
Treasurer . . . . . Mr. J. Jaggard
Managing Director . . . . . Mr. S. Mainville

Directorate

Miss S. Abell***
Mr. G. Baldwin
Mrs. M. Baskin
*Mrs. H. Bell
Mr. J. Bland
Mrs. C. Brigham
*Mr. B. Charlton
Reverend D. Collier
Mr. K. Dixon
Ms. M. Donkin
Mr. P. Drage**
Mr. J. Farnworth
Dr. M. Ford
Mrs. K. Friedman
*Mr. B. Hinkley
Mrs. G. Huxley
Mrs. M. Lewis
Mr. J. MacDonald**
Dr. E. Macintyre
Mrs. N. McAuley
Mrs. N. McAuley
*Mr. J. Prentice
Mr. J. Russell
Mr. D. Scott
Mr. E. N. Simmons
Mr. J. Southall
Dr. J. Stowe
*Mrs. B. Ward**
Mrs. D. Webber

* *Regional Councillor*
** *Regional Councillor – term ended December, 1, 1982*
*** *Resigned*

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

*YEAR END TOTAL	1981	1982
Admitted to care through Family Services Department	319	265
Admitted to care through Unmarried Parents Unit	29	28
Total Days Care	134,997	134,832
Total Paid Institution Days	13,668	15,948
Children discharged from care	345	323
*Total Children in Care	377	347
New and reopened Family Services Cases	2,236	2,248
Closed Family Services Cases	2,240	2,305
*Family Services Caseload	736	679
New and reopened Unmarried Parents Cases	63	60
Closed Unmarried Parents Cases	67	60
*Unmarried Parents Caseload	19	19
Applications to Adopt	73	80
Children Placed on Adoption	59	44
Foster Home Applications	46	43

SUMMARY OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND SURPLUS

AS OF DECEMBER 31st, 1982

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	$4,382,942	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	1,082,489	$5,465,431
Gasoline Tax Rebate	1,472	
Other Societies	62,168	
Official Guardian Reports	6,082	
Ministry Reimbursements	5,319	
Membership Fees	3,745	
Payments from Parents	20,574	
Department of National Health and Welfare	121,495	
Investment Interest	72,072	
Family Life Education	19,160	
Adoption Fees	4,519	
Mental Retardation Project	3,543	
Other	2,535	322,684
TOTAL REVENUE		$5,788,115

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Benefits	2,922,071	
Building Occupancy	58,827	
Office Expense	147,024	
Training, Education and Conferences	19,631	
Promotion and Publicity	32,790	
Purchased Services (non-medical)	76,306	
Transportation	86,052	
Boarding Rate Payments	1,961,020	
Health and Allied Services	50,548	
Child and Client Personal Needs	333,056	
Emergency Assistance	7,567	
Miscellaneous	13,034	
Capital Costs	92,303	5,800,229
EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF REVENUE		$ (12,114)

SURPLUS

1981 Surplus	66,009	
Expenditures in Excess of Revenue	(12,114)	53,895
Appropriations		
Reserves – Capital Expenditures		(53,895)
		0

Auditors: H. R. Doane & Company

An audited statement of the Society's financial [illegible] at the Society's office upon request.

URBAN/MUNICIPAL

YEARS OF CARING
A CELEBRATION OF COMMITMENT

the children's aid society
OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

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ANNUAL REPORT 1983

JOHN M. REESOR, PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1983 was the second and last year of my term as president of the Society. As I look back, I remember two very interesting and challenging years during which I saw the Society continue to provide the best possible protective and preventive services to the children and families of this community. I also recall the pleasure of working with an active, involved Board of Directors and a creative energetic staff.

The backbone of any Children's Aid Society is provided by the foster parents who render the day-to-day care of our foster children. Yearly, they grow fewer in number and the burden which is placed upon them grows greater. Their service is truly invaluable and we would exhort the entire community to give recognition and praise to the fantastic job they do. Recognition also is due to the many volunteers who carry a further share of the work of the C.A.S.

It is with regret that we remember the deaths of two former Directors of the Society: Clare Vinnels and Bert Beaumont. Mr. Vinnels was Managing Director in the postwar years of 1945 to 1953, while his predecessor, Mr. Beaumont served the agency for 11 years beginning in 1934. Both men provided invaluable service in building the strong foundation upon which the society now stands. In the annals of the history of the Society, they will long be remembered.

Through retirement we said farewell to social worker, Mrs. Gert Fanning, who left us after 17 years of service; and we saluted Mrs. Marie Sanders for 25 years of service to the Society.

Looking ahead to our Ninetieth Anniversary in 1984, we recall the agency's early struggle for survival. Today, we have come a long way to a point where the public and politicians acknowledge the basic premise that both society *and* government have a responsibility to protect children and to try to help families stay together whenever possible.

In the early days, the Society functioned strictly through volunteer service. Today, while volunteers still play a major role we now function with a staff of over 100; and while we still experience difficult times financially, it's a long way from the 1894 budget of $40 to 1983's $5.6 million budget.

Yes, we *have* come a long way; but we still have a long way to go.

My sincere appreciation goes out to all those who so freely gave their help during the past 90 years of caring; and a special thanks to our current Board (especially to Cathy Brigham, Karen Friedman, Jim Patterson and Dr. James Stowe, who are retiring from the Board at the end of their terms), foster parents, volunteers, donors and most particularly to our Director, Syl Mainville, and his superlative staff.

John M Reesor

SYLVIO MAINVILLE

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present my 1983 Annual Report to the membership of the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth. The report is intended to provide an overview of the work of the Society during the past year in the areas of services and administration.

SERVICE TRENDS

Despite the growing trend towards economic recovery in 1983, by year end, we had seen a 10% increase in the number of family service referrals from 2,245 in 1982 to 2,445 in 1983. The impact was felt most in the area of sexual abuse cases, which rose from 40 in 1982 to 73 in 1983. Our continuing emphasis on keeping families together led to a slight reduction in the number of children in care from 347 at the end of 1982 to 331 at the end of 1983.

Our sorely depleted supply of foster homes was down to 149 at year end with the greatest need being in the area of homes for teenagers. Foster home applications were at an all-time low of 36 and recruitment of new homes remained a top priority.

With barely a handful of infants being given up by unmarried mothers, adoption of infants accounted for only 16 of our 26 adoption placements during the year.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 1983 approved Society budget of $5,660,083 provided an increase of only 3.57% over the 1982 budget. Since 87% of the Society's budget represents salaries and boarding rate payments, the only way to adjust our planned level of expenditures was by a reduction of five staff positions: a step which necessitated a redistribution of workload and responsibilities and greater demands on staff. Fortunately, staff reductions were implemented by attrition throughout the year, and layoffs were avoided. The Society ended the year with a slight surplus of $58,235.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

In a planned attempt to maximize the use of existing staff resources and to strengthen services, Placement Resources and the Adoption Unit were amalgamated into one unit and the two Adolescent Units were united into one unit with the adolescent intake function transferred to an enlarged General Intake Unit. The function of the Child Abuse Unit, which previously handled only referrals from professionals, was altered to include the handling of *all* abuse referrals. It is hoped that the change will provide a more co-ordinated child abuse service.

The Human Resources Director, whose position was introduced in 1982, spent a large part of 1983 formulating and updating policies and procedures related to the hiring, orientation and evaluation of employees. Staff training and development programs organized in collaboration with members of the Staff In-Service Training Committee received greater priority.

INFORMATION SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

The Information Support Unit planned for 1983 had to be eliminated from the budget for financial reasons; however, an alternate plan utilizing existing staff and resources was introduced. Hopefully, improvements in our service data base will aid future planning and be a useful tool to social workers. Consistent with our plan to develop a fully integrated information system, our new telephone system will eventually be linked to our computer and word processors.

RESEARCH

Although lacking the funds and the staff for extensive research of our own, we were pleased to participate in several research projects in areas vitally connected to Children's Aid services. Topics included:

—The trauma of separation
—Hard-to-place children
—The value of family support systems
—A study of reconstituted families

PRIVATE FUNDS

Funds obtained through private donations and bequests, while not part of our operational budget, do provide us with funding for special needs and projects for which government funding is not available. In 1983, the provision of funds for cultural enrichment and education purposes for Wards of the Society was expanded to include opportunities for children in their own homes. Bequest funds were also made available by the Board for several community education programs being planned for the 1984 Ninetieth Anniversary celebrations. These will stress two major themes: the prevention of sexual abuse of children and the prevention of teen pregnancies.

SOCIETY BY-LAWS

We have spent considerable time reviewing our By-Laws to bring them into compliance with governing legislation and the Ministry's Model By-Laws. Areas considered included membership requirements, Board tenure, elections, transfer of assets, etcetera. It is anticipated these will be completed in 1984.

STATEMENT ON TEEN PREGANCIES

Based on conclusions reached in a report on Adolescent Birth Planning Needs in Ontario, the Board approved a policy statement supporting the development of adolescent birth planning programs and the need for staff training related to teen sexuality and birth planning.

IMPACT OF NEW LEGISLATION

The proposed federal Young Offenders Act will raise the age of criminal responsibility from 7 years to 12 years in 1984 and introduce determinate sentences having a maximum length of two to three years.

Children's Aid Societies will carefully monitor the impact of these legislative changes which are expected to result in additional demand for child welfare services.

The other legislation is The Child and Family Services Act which will amalgamate provincial legislation relating to children. The first draft has been revised following input from across the province and finalization will likely take place in 1984. This legislation will require close examination by the child welfare field to ensure that it is consistent with the best interests of children.

THE CHILDREN'S FUND

Every year our work with families is greatly enriched by donations made to our Children's Fund by individuals and organizations in the community, 1983 was no exception.

The Children's Fund makes possible two programs which cannot be included in our operational budget: the Summer Program and the Christmas Program. Both of these provide services which — while not essential as far as the C.A.S. mandate is concerned — do much to enhance the quality of life for hundreds of children with whom we work.

In 1983 $10,500 was donated that made it possible for almost 200 children from client families to leave the hot city streets for a camp holiday in the country. Other children were involved in day camp programs or at the enrichment school held at the agency.

At Christmas donations of $7,600 turned Christmas Day into a very special day for 159 families.

We are extremely grateful for the interest and generosity of our donors and on behalf of our children and families, we say a heartfelt Thank You!

SERVICES TO FAMILIES

Under the Child Welfare Act, the mandate given to a Children's Aid Society is to protect children from neglect and abuse and to offer services to families that will help them provide better care for their children. The goal is to keep children with their own families whenever possible and this goal is achieved through counselling by trained social workers and the use of Child Care workers and paraprofessional Parent Aides. Use is also made of various support services in the community.

INTAKE TRENDS

In 1983, the telephone screening worker responded to 5084 calls, about 25 per cent of which she diverted to other agencies because they were not appropriate for C.A.S. The balance of the calls were handled by our seven Intake workers who either provided short-term assistance in cases which could be resolved in 6 to 8 weeks, or opened the case to a worker from one of our three long-term Family Service units.

The number of Intake calls peaked in late August and continued unabated through the fall and pre-Christmas period which normally are slow times. The unexpected influx has meant slower services and cases have to be looked after on a priority basis.

One quarter of our referrals dealt with practical and financial issues such as lack of food, income and housing problems. While a large percentage of our clients are poor or on Welfare, the economy has affected them through the government cutbacks to social services other than Children's Aid. Other calls dealt with neglect and lack of supervision of children.

Our major involvement was with young, single parents in their early 20's who lack parenting skills and have difficulty in handling even young children. Child Care workers and community agencies proved invaluable in helping this type of parent. While we seldom see parents in their 30's and 40's (except in the case of teenage problems), we do see a large number of couples in their late 20's because of marital conflict and difficulty in raising another partner's children in a "reconstituted" family.

A surprising number of calls were from divorced parents complaining about the care being given to children by their former partner. These cases must be investigated, but since we do not deal with custody issues, most cases were referred elsewhere.

SINGLE PARENTS

While we used to provide counselling and other services to well over 300 unmarried mothers a year in the pre 1960's, today the numbers have dwindled to less than 50, most of whom are teenagers. Of those we do see about half plan to keep their babies; the balance to surrender them for adoption. Because of the number of girls who show signs of needing ongoing help, many cases are opened as protection cases to long-term workers.

CHILD ABUSE

In 1982, a Ministry Operational Review recommended that *all* child abuse intake be channelled through the Child Abuse Unit, rather than just the professional referrals previously handled. In July, 1983, this became operational and the workload in the unit doubled. A total of 659 reports of abuse were made throughout the year and of these 146 were confirmed. Allegations of adolescent abuse were two and one half times higher from July to December than during the same period in 1982, with confirmation of sexual abuse much higher than physical or other forms of abuse. Sexual abuse cases are more complex and require great sensitivity in handling. Our statistics show that 34 hours of investigation, history taking and interviewing are required to open one case as opposed to 23 hours for a physical abuse case. The Police must be advised of all serious, confirmed cases of both physical and sexual abuse and a report forwarded by the Social Worker to the Crown Attorney with our findings and recommendations. Approximately one third of all confirmed cases are also registered on a Provincial Registry maintained by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Current treatment techniques call for removal of the sexual abuser from the home rather than the child who often is made to feel responsible if she / he is removed. Individual casework is provided and in December our first group for teen victims was begun. We are also attempting to advocate the setting up of a community network of support groups for adult victims, abusers, spouses of abusers and siblings.

One of our most effective treatment tools continues to be the use of paraprofessional Parent Aides who give practical, supportive help to parents and training in parenting skills. Last year they provided 7,550 hours.

ADOLESCENT PROBLEMS

Adolescent cases climbed precipitously in the latter part of the year. In December alone, 14 new cases (¾ of a caseload) were transferred to the long-term Adolescent Unit from Intake.

Cases involved teens running away from home or wanting to leave home; parents who were unable to control their adolescent's behaviour; physical and sexual abuse of teens; and parental inability to understand or cope with their adolescent's homosexuality. Because of the increase in calls, a group intake process was instituted which proved a tremendous time saver for workers. The number of teens needing to come into foster care because of the severity of the family problems produced a serious crisis because of our lack not only of foster homes, but also emergency placements. Hopefully, the latter will be resolved in 1984 through a contractual agreement with Dawn Patrol Group Homes.

A group for adolescent victims of sexual abuse was begun late in the year and proved so successful that not one of the five girls missed one session. The use of a male and female team of facilitators set off some interesting dynamics. However, even the girls who were resistent to the presence of a man initially, ended up being highly accepting of his presence in the group.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

When relationships between parents and their teenagers have reached a breaking point, our After-School Program provides not only relief to the tension in the family, but also a chance for both adolescents *and* parents to learn better ways of relating. The teens participate in a sixteen-week activity program, while the parents are enrolled in weekly parenting classes. Sixty-four adolescents participated in 1983 and the result was a seventy-five per cent success rate in preventing them from coming into foster care. In several cases, youngsters who had not met all their behaviour goals within the sixteen-week program were brought back on a part-time basis.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

During 1983, 278 children came into foster care because of a family crisis. Sometimes this was accomplished through the Court awarding temporary guardianship; at other times, parents voluntarily agreed to temporary care of their child.

PLACEMENT RESOURCES

Ideally if a child has to come into care C.A.S. should provide a full range of resources such as emergency, assessment, treatment, specialized and group foster homes. The reality was that we were desperately short of all types of resources particularly for teenagers. With foster homes closing because of economic pressure and foster parent "burnout", we were in a crisis situation when an unusually high number of seriously disturbed teenagers came into care. In some cases, we were forced to place them in costly institutional settings as far as 150 miles away.

All these difficulties, which placed heavy pressure on both staff and foster parents, were futher complicated by a large staff turnover and a planned organizational change which united placement services into one Adoption / Placement Resources Unit. Much energy was also expended putting into practice the new provincial licensing standards for group homes accommodating 5 to 6 children.

CROWN WARD UNIT

If our efforts to reunite families and return children to their own homes fail, the Court may declare the child a Crown Ward, meaning the Society must act as his guardian until he is eighteen. While Crown Wardship makes a child legally free for adoption, many children are emotionally unable to relinquish the ties to their natural parents and may return to them when they are out of C.A.S. care. For these children, long-term care in foster or group homes is the answer.

The role of the Crown Ward's social worker is to help him with his adjustment at school and in the foster home and with relationships with his peers and his natural family. Crown Wards are encouraged to utilize all educational opportunities and in some cases, extended care is offered so a child can complete his education.

Some Crown Wards are unable to adapt to foster or group homes. With these youngsters — as with Wards approaching eighteen much time is spent teaching the skills needed for independent living. Crown Ward workers also supervise youngsters in institutional settings.

ADOPTION

With unmarried mothers tending to keep their babies, infant adoption was at an all-time low. We continued to seek adopting families for preschool and older children who had become Crown Wards through family breakdown. Most were placed locally, although we also found homes through the Provincial and Federal Adoption Resource Exchanges, the Today's Child newspaper feature and C.T.V.'s Family Finder program. Pre- and post-adoption groups were held regularly to provide education and support for adoptive parents.

A new development was the involvement of birth mothers in the choice of a home for their baby and we continued to encourage them to provide pictures, letters or gifts that we could pass on to adoptive parents. Requests continued to pour in from adopted persons seeking non-identifying birth information, but a lack of staff to process this service meant a waiting period of one year for information. Several reunions were arranged for adopted persons and birth parents who had registered their desire to locate each other at the Provincial Adoption Disclosure Registry.

SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

The Special Services Unit of Child Care workers provides voluntary service to parents whose main problem is an inability to handle their child's behaviour. Operating with deliberately low caseloads, the staff work intensively in the client's home, observing child behaviour and teaching parents better management skills. Seventy-nine families were referred in '83: some from C.A.S. caseloads, others from the community. In addition, the Unit was involved in play therapy and doing assessments of children in specialized foster homes.

A unique new program was the Individualized Treatment Program (I.T.P), aimed at teens, fifteen to eighteen, who are unable to manage in school, at a job or in a foster home. Through a one-to-one, twenty hour a week relationship with their worker, they are helped to develop initiative and life skills and to move on to independent living.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Last year, almost fifteen hundred parents and professionals participated in one of our Family Life Education programs. In addition to thirteen *Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (S.T.E.P.)* and two *Communicating with Your Teenager* groups, six all-day workshops, fifteen evening and six community luncheon presentations of guest speakers were held. Highlight of the year was the two-day workshop featuring the internationally-known Dr. Burton White, author of The First Three Years of Life.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Our various craft, nutrition and life skills groups continued to provide client mothers with activities geared to improving their parenting skills, creating recreational relief from family pressures and improving self-esteem. In addition, the program co-ordinator acted as a resource person for Parent Aides and staff conducting life skills and craft groups on their own and did workshops for key community organizations and groups of adoptive parents.

A perennial success was Nu Cool School, which provides children with enrichment and stimulation through planned play.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers continued to play a special role throughout the agency. Not only did they provide services that supplemented the work of the social workers, but also they enriched the lives of both children and families through their services as clerical helpers, tutors, "special friends", baby sitters, drivers, Nu Cool School assistants and case aides.

While volunteers give much, they also gain much in return. Several reported that the experience they received as Children's Aid Society case aides helped them in finding jobs; while one volunteer told of the gratification of knowing that her job as a "special friend" to a disturbed child kept him out of an institution.

Still in short supply are male "special friends" and drivers and anyone willing to undertake these volunteer assignments are urged to contact the Volunteer Co-ordinator.

YOUR C.A.S. TODAY AND YESTERDAY

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In the early days, the society functioned on a basis of volunteer assistance largely through the Ladies Visiting Committee, and a secretary, Mr. William Hunter. Money to provide services was derived from paid memberships, gifts and a small annual City Council grant.

From this humble beginning the Society grew to an organization with a budget in the millions, employing a staff of over 100.

Originally, the Society served the entire population of Hamilton. However, in 1954 when the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth was incorporated as a separate entity, our Society's function became that of providing service to all non-Catholic families.

In 1966, amalgamation with the Children's Aid Society of Wentworth County took place; and the new organization became known as the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth.

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY ITS ROLE, ITS PURPOSE, ITS POSITION IN LAW

The Child Welfare Act of Ontario under which your Society functions states:

1. Every society shall be incorporated under the Corporations Act or a predecessor thereof as a corporation without share capital and shall be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
2. Every society shall be operated for the purpose of,
   a. investigating allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protection;
   b. protecting children where necessary;
   c. providing guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
   d. providing care for children assigned or committed to its care under this or any other Act;
   e. supervising children assigned to its supervision under this or any other Act;
   f. placing children for adoption;
   g. assisting the parents of children born or likely to be born outside of marriage and their children born outside of marriage; and
   h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS
CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

143 Wentworth Street South, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 2Z1

1983-1984

Honorary Solicitors

Mr. J. E. Milne, Q.C. — Mr. J. F. Reesor, Q.C.

Officers and Directors

President ..... Mr. J. M. Reesor
Past President ..... Mr. J. R. Patterson
Vice President ..... Mr. D. Smith
Treasurer ..... Mr. J. Jaggard
Managing Director ..... Mr. S. Mainville

Directorate

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Mr. J. Southhall
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Mrs. D. Webber
Mrs. B. Yates

*Regional Councillor

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

*YEAR END TOTALS	1982	1983
Admitted to care through Family Services Department	293	278
Total Days Care	134,832	122,369
Total Paid Institution Days	15,948	15,155
Children discharged from care	323	300
*Total Children in Care	347	325
New and reopened Family Service Cases	2,245	2,445
Closed Family Service Cases	2,365	2,406
*Family Service Cases	679	718
Applications to Adopt	80	49
Children Placed on Adoption	44	26
Foster Home Applications	43	36

SUMMARY OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND SURPLUS

AS OF DECEMBER 31st, 1983

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	$4,542,292	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	1,117,791	$5,660,083
Gasoline Tax Rebate	1,511	
Other Societies	66,113	
Official Guardian Reports	4,657	
Membership Fees	3,347	
Payments from Parents	16,149	
Department of National Health and Welfare	128,877	
Investment Interest	41,435	
Family Life Education	17,248	
Adoption Fees	3,395	
Mental Retardation Project	105,476	
Other	4,127	392,335
TOTAL REVENUE		6,052,418

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Benefits	3,158,659	
Building Occupancy	65,495	
Office Expense	134,544	
Training, Education and Conferences	19,638	
Promotion and Publicity	31,070	
Purchased Services (non-medical)	57,046	
Transportation	87,011	
Boarding Rate Payment	2,011,458	
Health and Allied Services	57,638	
Child and Client Personal Needs	317,025	
Emergency Assistance	11,054	
Miscellaneous	14,833	
Capital Costs	28,712	5,994,183
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES		58,235

SURPLUS

1982 Surplus	0
Revenue in Excess of Expenditures	58,235
SURPLUS AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1983	58,235

Audtors: H. R. Doane & Company
An audited statement of the Society's financial operation for the year 1983 is available for study at the Society's office upon request.

newsletter
OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

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1984

ANNUAL REPORT 1984

DEAN SMITH

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1984 marked the ninetieth anniversary of our Society. It was a year of remembrance of time past and of commitment to a future in which the staff, the Board of Directors, foster parents and volunteers would continue to direct their efforts to the protection of children and the preservation of family life.

Beginning with a resoundingly successful Annual Meeting / Open House in March, which was attended by over 750 friends of the Children's Aid, a number of special events were scheduled throughout the year. Recognizing that a top quality agency like ours is dependent on a highly motivated and dedicated staff, we introduced a new practice of tangible, public recognition of staff after 10 years of service in addition to the already established 25 year recognition. Not forgotten were retired staff who were entertained at a luncheon which will now become a regular annual event.

In November, gratitude was again expressed to our foster parents at the Annual Recognition Dinner Dance.

Two main service themes were spot-lighted in 1984: the prevention of sexual misuse of children and the prevention of teen pregnancies and several projects were designed which focused on these themes. In view of the overwhelmingly positive response to these projects, efforts are being made for their continuance, in part through the application of the Society's private funds.

While our truly memorable 90th Anniversary Year attracted some very positive community attention, it was a year not without pressures. The serious shortage of foster care resources, rising child abuse, increasing numbers of children needing institutional care, and budgetary difficulties exacted their toll on the Society. An Exceptional Circumstances Review application initiated by the Society was successful for 1984, and additional funds were obtained from the Region and Ministry of Community and Social Services to offset increased costs for hard-to-place children requiring special care and treatment. The staff worked very hard and co-operatively to effect efficiencies to accommodate our limited funding, while at the same time attempting to ensure no reduction in the quality of service delivery.

Our appreciation goes out to retiring Board members; Gordon Baldwin, James Bland, Jack Jaggard, Don Scott and Darlene Webber, and we also extend a warm welcome to our new members on the directorate.

In closing, as President I would like to pay tribute to our overburdened foster parents and to thank them, the enthusiastic and hard working Board of Directors, the Managing Director and staff, and our volunteers, for their dedicated efforts on behalf of children throughout the past year.

SYLVIO MAINVILLE

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present my 1984 annual report to the membership of the Society of Hamilton-Wentworth. The report is intended to provide a picture of the work of the Society during the past year in areas related to finances, services and management.

Budget Overview

The initial 1984 approved budget of $5,866,767.00 provided an increase of 3.66% over 1983. The Society applied for an Exceptional Circumstances Review later in the year and approval was granted for the amount of $153,666.00. This was as a result of a large overexpenditure in the amount of $350,378.00 for children requiring care and treatment in specialized institutional settings throughout the province. After utilizing all our surplus funds and reserves, and after reducing expenditures in other areas, the actual year end deficit was reduced to $72,166.00. The balance of the $153,666.00, i.e. $81,494.00, will be added as an item of revenue for 1985,

thus reducing our financial requirements in 1985.

Hard to Place Children
The number of children requiring specialized care and treatment increased from 44 at the end of 1983 to 63 at the end of 1984. Many of these hard-to-place children required placement outside the Region for lack of an appropriate community resource, particularly with respect to children in need of long term treatment. A major priority in the coming year is to work together with the community and Ministry toward the development of appropriate residential resources to serve hard-to-place children.

NOVA and Foster Care
In 1984 the Society adopted the NOVA approach to foster care delivery. Basic to this approach is the concept of mutuality and consensus in the area of foster care programming in the agency. A total commitment will be required from staff, foster parents and Board, and it is our belief that NOVA will assist us in working together more effectively and to better serve our community's children.

Child Abuse Services
There was an increase of 21% in the number of child abuse referrals from 659 in 1983 to 799 in 1984.

The Society participated in the development of a community network for the treatment of sexual abuse which has resulted in the formation of several inter-disciplinary treatment groups for victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse. A committee with representatives from both Children's Aid Societies, the Crown Attorney, and the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional police also worked co-operatively to develop a child abuse protocol.

The purpose of the protocol is to provide the community with a co-ordinated response to the reporting and investigation of serious physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Information System Development
In response to the continuous and growing information needs of the Society, an active committee of social work and administrative support staff, in conjunction with a consultant in office automation and information processing, has worked throughout 1984 in the design of a system that would meet these needs.

It has been a long and arduous task, but one which will play a major role in our planning for the future. The impact of changes in information technology will be felt in every aspect of our lives, and no less in the work of your Children's Aid Society. We feel that it is important to stay abreast of these changes and to adapt our system as our needs change.

The Children's Fund
Every year our work with families is greatly enriched by donations made to our Children's Fund by individuals and organizations in the community. The fund makes possible our summer camp and Christmas programs to enhance the quality of life for hundreds of children with whom we work. In 1984 we were able to send 217 children to summer camp and our Christmas program enabled us to turn Christmas into a special day for 167 families.

Program Review and Evaluation
1984 saw the development of a service audit procedure which will be implemented in 1985. The purpose of the audit is to review and monitor the service provided to our clients to ensure that it is consistent with governing legislation and standards, and agency policies and procedures. It is our belief that the family services audit along with instruments such as the Ministry Crown Ward Administrative Review will promote self evaluation, increase accountability, and enhance our ability to serve our clients more effectively.

1984 General Intake Trends
Some of the major trends in family services referrals included an increased demand for financial assistance by families attempting to cope with the effects of an unstable economic environment. The Society also noted a significant increase in young single mothers usually under 19 years of age with young children who require help with parenting and child management. The new provision of the Young Offenders Act also has resulted in more contact with children under 12 years of age who were involved in committing acts of delinquency, but are no longer subject to charges under changes enacted in the legislation.

Child and Family Services Act
An extensive legislation review and consultation process has taken place over a period of two years culminating in the new Child and Family Services Act which will be proclaimed July 1, 1985.

The new legislation is in many ways progressive in responding to the rights and best interests of children, but is perceived by many as undermining the legitimate authority of private Boards and their essential role as community citizens in the planning and delivery of children's services. A great deal of work is ahead of us in carrying out the implementation of this new legislation.

Prevention and Support Programs
The Society continued to provide a wide range of family support programs consistent with its new Mission Statement, which recognizes the principle of supporting the autonomy and integrity of the family unit. These programs include our Parent Aides who assist young inexperienced parents with parenting and child management, and the Adolescent After School Program which is intended to maintain the young person in his / her own home. Our Special Services Unit developed a new and effective crisis / emergency intervention program which is designed to prevent admission into care by supporting the child in his own home during crisis situations. Our Family Life Education Program offered workshops to the community, and NuCool School provided children with an enrichment program in the summer months.

The Profit — Kahlil Gibran

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of
Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from
you
And though they are with you yet they
belong not to you.
You may give them your love but not
your thoughts
You may house their bodies but not
their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of
tomorrows, which you cannot visit not
even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but
seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor
tarries with yesterday.

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   f. placing children for adoption;
   g. assisting the parents of children born or likely to be born outside of marriage and their children born outside of marriage; and
   h. any other duties given to it by this or any other Act.

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CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

143 Wentworth Street South, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 2Z1

1984-1985

Honorary Solictors

Mr. J. E. Milne, Q.C. — Mr. J. F. Reesor, Q.C.

Officers and Directors

President ..... Mr. D. Smith
Past President ..... Mr. J. M. Reesor
Vice President ..... Mr. J. M. Southall
Treasurer ..... Mr. J. Jaggard
Managing Director ..... Mr. S. Mainville

Directorate

Mr. G. Baldwin
Mrs. L. Balinson
Mrs. M. Baskin
Mrs. H. Bell*
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Reverend D. Collier
Ms. G. Craig
Mr. L. Dawson
Mr. K. Dixon
Ms. M. Donkin
Mr. J. Farnworth
Dr. M. Ford
Mrs. L. Hamel
Mr. B. Hinkley*
Mrs. G. Huxley
Mrs. M. Lewis
Dr. E. Macintyre
Mr. W. McFarland
Mrs. A. Mutch
Mr. J. Prentice*
Mr. J. Russell
Mr. D. Scott
Mr. E. Simmons
Mrs. D. Webber
Mrs. B. Yates

*Regional Councillor

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

YEAR END TOTALS	1983	1984
Admitted to care through Family Services Department	278	283
Total Days Care	122,369	127,040
Total Paid Institution Days	15,155	21,743
Children discharged from care	300	286
*Total Children in Care	331	328
New and reopened Family Services Cases	2,445	2,739
Closed Family Services Cases	2,406	2,728
*Family Service Cases	718	729
Applications to Adopt	49	49
Children Placed on Adoption	26	44
Foster Home Applications	36	33

SUMMARY OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND SURPLUS

AS OF DECEMBER 31st, 1984

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	$4,825,500	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	1,194,933	$6,020,433
Gasoline Tax Rebate	931	
Other Societies	52,215	
Official Guardian Reports	5,106	
Membership Fees	3,021	
Payments from Parents	18,198	
Department of National Health and Welfare	134,249	
Investment Interest	41,968	
Family Life Education	10,505	
Adoption Fees	3,100	
Mental Retardation Project	10,000	
Other	4,928	284,221
TOTAL REVENUE		6,304,654

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Benefits	3,225,386	
Building Occupancy	63,958	
Office Expense	120,061	
Training, Education and Conferences	18,125	
Promotion and Publicity	30,887	
Purchased Services (non-medical)	53,031	
Transportation	104,625	
Boarding Rate Payments	2,381,227	
Health and Allied Services	59,602	
Child and Client Personal Needs	260,261	
Emergency Assistance	15,327	
Miscellaneous	15,087	
Capital Costs	30,380	6,378,007
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES		73,353

SURPLUS

1983 Surplus	58,235
Transfer from Reserves	96,612
Total Reserves and Surplus, beginning of year	154,847
Expenditures in Excess of Revenue	73,353
SURPLUS AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1984	81,494

Auditors: H. R. Doane & Company
An audited statement of the Society's financial operation for the year 1984 is available for study at the Society's office upon request.

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annual report 1985

the children's aid society of hamilton-wentworth

the president's report

Having taken over the presidency in mid-term from Dean Smith who was leaving the area, I am pleased to assume the responsibility of introducing this Annual Report on the work of the Society during the past year.

1985 was the International Year of the Youth: a year in which the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth and other local social agencies took a hard look at the needs of adolescents in our community. The picture was a grim one which showed increasing problems in the youth sector, and a serious lack of local services for counselling and treating disturbed teenagers. A lack of available foster home and group treatment facilities further complicated these difficulties. During the year, we experienced a continuing dependency on high priced group and institutional settings far from the borders of Hamilton-Wentworth; settings which meant lack of family contact for the youngsters, heavy demand on staff travel time and a serious stress on an already overburdened C.A.S. budget.

Limited by minimal budget increases from the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Region, we encouraged staff to develop innovative, time-limited service projects that could be funded from public donations to our Bequest Fund. Experiments involving the differential use of existing staff were also encouraged as a cost saving measure.

Staff, foster parents and volunteers have always been the "people power" that has kept us in the forefront of Children's Aid Societies throughout the province. During the past year, the "technological power" that provides support to our people received further impetus through a staff committee which worked to devise an information system which could lead to the full computerization of our records. Associated with this was an increased emphasis on research and planning which is expected to provide invaluable assistance in the future in identifying changing service needs in advance of crisis situations.

Teen pregnancies and a serious increase in the number of sexual abuse cases remain causes for concern, but once again our Society has led the way in the creation of a community-based task force aimed at developing services for young mothers and a community network of treatment groups for victims and perpetrators of abuse.

I would like to express the agency's gratitude to our Board and committee members, especially those who are retiring from office at our Annual Meeting after many years of committed service.

Last, but not least, I would like to salute the foster parents who form the backbone of our agency, particularly Mrs. Clara Althouse who received an award for 30 years of service at the 1985 Foster Parent Recognition Night. Theirs is one of the most difficult jobs in the world, but their dedication and commitment is a large part of what makes Children's Aid work.

JACK SOUTHALL, *President*

report of the managing director

I am pleased to present a brief overview of the work of the Society during 1985 in the areas related to finances, management and services.

The Society's 1985 budget of $6,285,010 was approved early in the year by the Regional Municipality; however, lengthy budget negotiations with the Ministry of Community and Social Services which are still in process and a year end deficit of $192,814 have provided us with serious financial concerns. The deficit resulted from the high costs for children in special care settings and also unexpected legal fees involved in an inquest into the death of a child, a highly publicized Crown Wardship hearing and several complex disputed Wardship proceedings.

The Society was fortunate in averting a strike by social work staff when a 2-year contract reinstating a salary grid was ratified for 1985 and 1986.

Later in the year, using private funds, we were able to purchase a large residence to be used as a foster group home for males twelve to sixteen years of age. This much-needed facility and a foster home recruitment campaign planned for 1986 will add to our agency network of resources for children.

Implementation of the new Child and Family Services Act which replaced the former Child Welfare Act took place in 1985. The Act, which consolidated services previously governed by many separate Acts into one piece of legislation, is intended to present one cohesive philosophy for services to children and families. The declaration of principles includes these key objectives: to promote the best interests, protection and well-being of children; to follow the least restrictive course of action; to recognize each child's individual needs, and to support and strengthen the family wherever possible.

The full impact of the new legislation is not yet known, but will be monitored carefully in the coming year. To date, our experience has indicated that much more staff time is required to comply with the requirements of the Act, particularly with respect to the court process and the various case review procedures.

In co-operation with the Catholic Children's Aid Society, the Crown Attorney, and the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police, a protocol for the investigation of serious abuse situations was established. It has proved most helpful in ensuring a more effectively co-ordinated approach to the investigation of these cases.

Due to financial constraints, the Family Life Education Program had to be discontinued in 1985, however, the Society continued to provide a wide range of family support services including the Crisis Intervention Program, Parent Aide Program, Adolescent After-School Program, and a Life Skills Program for young single mothers. These and other programs are consistent with our goal of maintaining the family unit wherever possible and have helped us meet the challenge of serving the children and families of the Hamilton-Wentworth region.

SYLVIO MAINVILLE, *Managing Director*

trends in service

- 2750 family service cases were opened. A large percentage were very serious protection cases (for example, 6 cases of fire setting by youngsters as young as six were encountered).
- Clients were largely young single parents or couples with reconstituted families.
- Behaviour management difficulties, lack of parental supervision and acting-out teenagers were major problems.
- Group interviews for parents of latency-aged youngsters were introduced to provide a more efficient use of staff time.
- A dramatic increase in cases of runaways involved in teenage prostitution caused great alarm.
- The After-School Program for adolescents was changed to a two nights a week program helping teens to deal with their feelings and to develop more appropriate behaviour and life skills.
- Unmarried mothers still tend to be teenagers who are keeping their babies.
- Child abuse cases rose 33% to 261 of which 88 were physical abuse. Sexual abuse cases rose 50% to total 173.
- There were 52 cases of abuse involving preschoolers and 209 involved school-aged and teen-aged youngsters. 76 involved males and 185 females.
- Our abuse staff worked closely with St. Joseph's Hospital in developing a project that would lead to earlier identification of abuse.
- A well-received film / speaker project, funded by Bequest Funds which was designed to teach elementary and secondary school students ways to prevent sexual abuse, resulted in 20 disclosures of previous abuse by students.
- Our agency housed 5 treatment groups for victims of abuse. An open-ended perpetrator's group was also held, staffed by our worker and one from the Catholic Society. It was open to anyone from the community not just CAS clients.
- Intensive crisis intervention techniques were used by Child Care workers in resolving serious parent / teen conflicts and in shoring up shaky foster home situations.
- The Outreach Program provided play therapy for sexually abused children and those needing one-on-one assistance. Other services included helping parents with child management training in their own homes.
- The lack of infants for adoption led to the closure of new applications to adopt infants and toddlers for a one year period.
- Applications to adopt dropped to 39 and 43 children were placed for adoption.
- Together with Halton and the Hamilton Catholic CAS we created a support group for current adopting parents and for people with older adopted children who need assistance.
- 324 children were admitted to care as a result of crisis situations, however, in keeping with agency philosophy, a large number returned home as quickly as possible.
- Applications to become foster parents continued to drop from 33 in 1984 to 26 in 1985. By year end, we had a total of only 141 homes.
- 125 volunteers provided 7000 hours of service.

board of directors and officers
the children's aid society
of hamilton-wentworth

143 Wentworth Street South, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 2Z1

1985-1986

Honorary Solicitors

Mr J. E. Milne, Q.C. Mr. J. F. Reesor, Q.C.

Officers and Directors

President ..... Mr. Dean Smith
(March, 1984 to September, 1985)
Mr. John Southall
(September, 1985 to March, 1986)
Past President ..... Mr. John Reesor
Vice President ..... Mr. John Southall
Treasurer ..... Mr. Webb McFarland
Managing Director ..... Mr. Sylvio Mainville

Directorate

Ms. Elizabeth Avetissian
Mrs. Joan Balinson
Mrs. Marjorie Baskin
*Mrs. Helen Bell
Mr. Geoff Cauchi
*Mr. Bruce Charlton
Reverend Donald Collier
Ms. Gaye Craig
Mr. Larry Dawson
Mr. Conrad DiDiodato
Mr. Kenneth Dixon
Ms. Mary Donkin
Mr. Jack Farnworth
Dr. Murray Ford
Mrs. Libby Hamel
*Mr. Brian Hinkley
Mrs. Gail Huxley
Mr. Wayne Keddy
Mrs. Marjorie Lewis
Dr. Ewan Macintyre
Mr. Webb McFarland
Mrs. Annamarie Mutch
*Mr. John Prentice
Mr. John Reesor
Mr. James Russell
Mr. Edward Simmons
Mr. Fred Simpson
Mr. John Southall
Mrs. Brenda Yates

*Regional Counsellor

summary of revenue, expenditures and deficit as of december 31st, 1985

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	$4,956,726	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	1,228,723	$6,185,449
Gasoline and Tax Rebate	759	
Other Societies	53,819	
Official Guardian Reports	6,068	
Membership Fees	2,980	
Payments from Parents	15,812	
Department of National Health and Welfare	129,499	
Investment Interest	41,904	
Family Life Education	19,168	
Adoption Fees	3,650	
Mental Retardation Project	10,400	
Other	33,998	318,057
TOTAL REVENUE		6,503,506

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Benefits	3,340,751	
Building Occupancy	64,056	
Office Expenses	126,696	
Training, Education and Conferences	20,781	
Promotion and Publicity	31,263	
Purchased Services (non-medical)	212,641	
Transportation	110,085	
Boarding Rate Payments	2,486,501	
Health and Allied Services	53,592	
Child and Client Personal Needs	268,651	
Emergency Assistance	19,186	
Miscellaneous	15,926	
Capital Costs	27,685	6,777,814
EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF REVENUE		274,308

DEFICIT

1984 Surplus	81,494	
Expenditures in Excess of Revenue	274,308	
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) AS AT DECEMBER, 31st, 1985		(192,814)

Auditors: H. R. Doane & Co.

An audited statement of the Society's financial operations for the year 1985 is available for study at the Society's office upon request.

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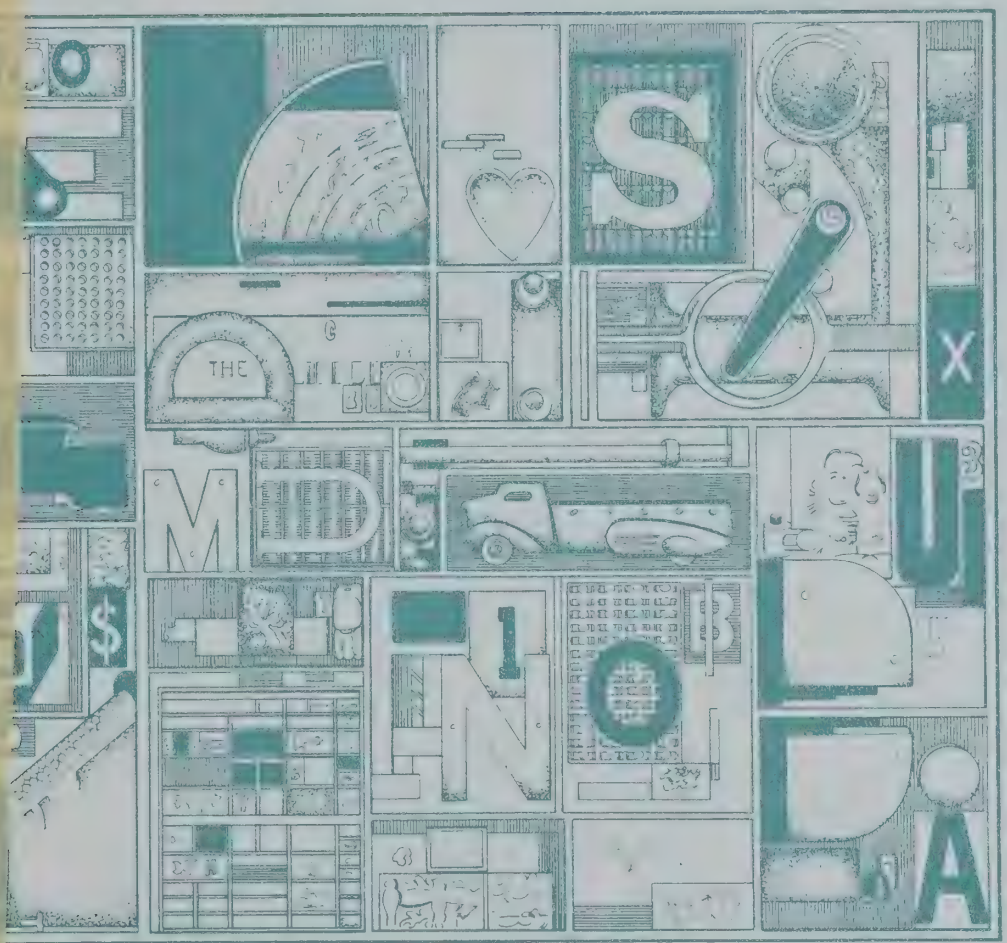
annual report 1986



the children's aid society of hamilton-wentworth

John Southall,
President

Budget In 1986, the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth received budget approval for $6,668,306, 4.5% higher than that of the previous year. Due to unexpectedly high legal and other professional fees incurred during a sensational Crown Wardship case, and increased costs for placement of "special needs" children in group homes, we incurred a deficit of $264,242. An Exceptional Circumstances Review by the Ministry was requested to cover this overexpenditure.

Impact of Legislation The demands of the new Child and Family Services Act, which requires greatly increased documentation of our accountability, continued to impose an incredibly heavy burden on staff at all levels as did the new Foster Parent Licensing requirements laid down by the Ministry. As required by the Act, new written procedures outlining the rights of parents, foster parents, clients and adopting parents were prepared and distributed and a Complaint Review procedure was implemented.

As had been predicted, the Young Offenders Act continued to impact heavily on our agency placement resources as youngsters who previously would have remained in the training school system until age 18 were transferred to Children's Aid at the completion of their sentences.

Organizational Changes The merging of our two service units into one Child and Family Services Department produced major changes which were complicated by the resignation of the person who had assumed the new Department Director's position. Units within the department were reconstituted with one of the unit supervisors being installed in the newly created position of Supervisor of Planning and Development: a position long needed in the Society. Meeting a need created by the increased number of disputed wardship cases was the hiring of a full-time lawyer who also assumed the responsibility of providing training to staff regarding court related matters. This emphasis on training was also seen in the development of a Learning Resource Centre and two highly successful Staff Development days, one on Stress, the other on Ethics.

A complete organizational review of the Department of Finance and Administration was also undertaken and a number of realignments of duties were implemented prior to year end.

Information Systems During the past year, we developed an innovative approach to our case management information system, in which we have used fourth generation language software to develop our own databases, while running the system on a network of microcomputers. This was implemented following a lengthy process of planning by our internal Information Systems Committee, comprised of social work and administrative staff.

Ongoing planning and development will be the key to our system keeping abreast of changing needs in the workplace.

the report of the president and the managing director

By-Laws Revision The Board of Directors conducted a comprehensive review of our agency By-Laws which will be presented to the membership for approval at the 1987 Annual Meeting. The purpose of the review was to ensure our compliance with the proposed Model By-Law, The Child and Family Services Act, The Corporations Act, and the Conflict of Interest legislation. The changes will also open meetings of the Board to all members of the Society.

Major Family Services Issues Family Service referrals occur either when parents themselves recognize a problem in their family and request help or when a complaint is lodged against a family by another individual or organization in the community. In most cases, our clients tend to be young single mothers or couples involved in reconstituted step parent families. A definite increase was noted in complaints involving mental illness of the mother or the misuse of drugs and alcohol, while self-referred cases tended to deal with behaviour management problems. Many of the referrals came to the Children's Aid Society as a last resort because of the withdrawal of funding from preventive programs in the community or because of lengthy waiting lists at other agencies.

Also noted was an increase in the number of false allegations of mistreatment which were related to the custody of — and access to — children from separated families.

In line with our policy as dictated by the Child and Family Services Act of taking "the least restrictive course of action" in family problems, fewer children were brought into care because of problems in their families and more families were helped with the children remaining in their own homes.

Child Abuse Protecting children from abusive situations remained one of our major areas of concern. The number of cases continued its upward trend with two-thirds of the confirmed cases involving sexual abuse and one-third physical abuse.

Continued concern was felt over the large number of abuses being committed by teenaged male baby sitters.

Thanks to a four year grant from the Trillium Foundation, we were able to plan for the expansion of group treatment programs for abuse victims and perpetrators and also the development of new child abuse prevention initiatives.

Adolescent Problems Conflict between parents and teens continued to escalate with more teens showing signs of serious emotional disturbance. Of major concern were the number of runaway teen prostitutes — male and female — for whom there were no local treatment and residential resources. A community task force is examining this issue.

Our After-School Program for acting out adolescents prevented numerous teens from coming into care by teaching them more appropriate ways of relating to parents and peers. It also provided relief for the parents.

Syl Mainville,
Managing Director

Placement Resources A shortage of foster homes, particularly emergency homes and homes for adolescents, has reached crisis proportions. Children formerly the responsibility of the correctional system are now diverted to Children's Aid, and because of a serious shortage of community resources we are forced to rely on hostels and a local maternity home in emergencies. Our newly opened agency owned group home has provided some relief and we have sought to develop innovative new solutions to the problem.

Adoption Due to a shortage of infants, no new applications to adopt healthy infants under 2 have been accepted since March, 1985. In recognition of the greater needs of families adopting older children, we continued to unite with Halton and the Catholic Children's Aid Society in running ongoing support groups. We also added a new support group for any parents whose adopted children are now adolescents regardless of where and when they adopted.

Crown Wards A number of Crown Wards who proved unable to accept the structure of a C.A.S. foster or group home, moved into independent or semi-independent private boarding situations. In line with this trend and also the fact that leaving the care of the Children's Aid Society can be extremely traumatic for Crown Wards when they turn eighteen, we moved in the direction of providing special training in independent living skills for adolescent Crown Wards.

This past year saw a major Crown Ward Review by the Ministry to ensure that we are meeting all the Ministry guidelines as to the quality of care and the creation of long and short-term goals for Crown Wards.

Support Programs Our Special Services Unit of Child Care workers proved invaluable in preventing children coming into care from crisis situations, by providing intensive support and behaviour management help to parents. They also provided play therapy for disturbed and abused children and one-to-one counselling with teens.

A Life Skills Program for developmentally handicapped single mothers funded by our Bequest Fund, and our Parent Aide Program for abusive high risk families proved invaluable in helping to develop improved parenting skills.

In Remembrance

We were saddened by the death of our former president, John Marshall Reesor; a young man well-known for his devotion to our Children's Aid Society and the children we serve. As a permanent memorial, we are naming our new agency owned group home after him.

Our Thanks

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our staff, volunteers, donors and to our retiring Board Members; but most especially we wish to extend our appreciation to the Foster Parents who are the backbone of this agency.

1986 in review
trends in service

- 2,815 family service cases were opened throughout 1986. A total of 7,037 children were involved.
- Because of continued emphasis on keeping families together, fewer children came into foster care: 290, as opposed to 324 in 1985.
- We responded to 812 contacts related to child abuse and, in addition, registered 262 actual cases of abuse. 204 abuse cases involved children over 6 years of age; 58 were under 6. 193 females were abused; 69 males.
- The majority of abuse was committed by a parent figure or someone well known to the child.
- 136 abused persons and 49 perpetrators of abuse have been involved in treatment groups conducted by this agency.
- 132 cases of serious abuse were registered with the Province.
- 8 Parent Aides provided intensive home support to high risk and abusive parents teaching them improved parenting skills.
- With full support from our Society, Tami's, a drop-in centre for young single mothers, was opened at the Y.W.C.A. We were also supportive of prenatal programs for young mothers at the downtown and East end Y.W.C.A.
- In the majority of adoption placements, birth mothers were involved with the selection of the adoptive family.
- There were 106 requests for non-identifying information about their backgrounds and birth parents by adopted persons. Those who wished for a reunion with their birth parents were referred to the provincial Adoption Exchange.
- 4 actual reunions of adoptees and their birth parents were supervised by our adoption workers.
- 19 children were placed on adoption compared to 43 in 1985. 6 of these were infants; the balance were over 2.
- Only 20 couples applied to become foster parents, leaving us with a total of 138 foster homes at year end.
- In addition to 7 parent-owned group homes, we now have one agency-owned group home which is licensed for 7 children.
- Outside paid group homes are being used extensively for children 7-12 in situations where we are not able to provide appropriate foster homes in our own system.
- 17 severely developmentally handicapped children were cared for in part-time Alternate Care foster homes in order to provide relief for parents and an alternative to institutionalization.
- Volunteer programs support all aspects of the agency's efforts with volunteers serving as case aides, clerical assistants, drivers and "special friends" to individual clients. Last year we had 100 volunteers ranging in age from teenagers to grandparents.
- Our Society was actively involved with the Community Child Abuse Council in attempting to implement a program in the schools to teach children how to avoid sexual abuse situations.
- As of December 31, 1986, the 313 children in our care were placed as follows: group homes, 56; regular or specialized foster home, 127; adoption home, 9; outside institutions, 68; elsewhere, 53 (parents or relatives home, private boarding, unknown runaway).

board of directors and officers
the children's aid society
of hamilton-wentworth

143 Wentworth Street South, P.O. Box 1107, Station A, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 4B9

1986-1987

Honorary Solicitors

Mr. J. E. Milne, Q.C. Mr. J. F. Reesor, Q.C.

Officers and Directors

President ..... Mr. John M. Southall
Past President ..... Mr. John M. Reesor**
Vice President ..... Dr. Murray Ford
Treasurer ..... Mr. Webster McFarland
Managing Director ..... Mr. Sylvio Mainville

Directorate

Miss Elizabeth Avetissian
Mrs. Joan Balinson
*Mr. Jim Barlow
Mr. Geoff Cauchi
Ms. Gaye Craig
Mrs. Gwen Davidson
Mr. Larry Dawson
Mrs. Wenda Debicki
Mr. Conrad DiDiodato
*Mr. Glen Etherington
Mr. Jack Farnworth
Miss Pat Francis
Mr. Peter Hill
*Mr. Brian Hinkley
Mr. Paul Jaggard
Mr. Wayne Keddy
Mrs. Marjory Lewis
Dr. Ewan Macintyre
Mrs. Jackie McKenzie
Mrs. Annamarie Mutch
Mr. James H. Russell
Mr. Peter Schmitt
*Mrs. Mary Ann Seldon
Mr. Edward N. Simmons
Mr. Fred J. H. Simpson
Mrs. Brenda Yates

*Regional Councillor
**Deceased

summary of revenue, expenditures and deficit as of december 31st, 1986

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	$5,349,251	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	1,319,055	$6,668,306
Gasoline Tax Rebate	764	
Other Societies	59,530	
Official Guardian Reports	6,835	
Membership Fees	2,773	
Payments from Parents	14,432	
Department of National Health and Welfare	135,174	
Investment Interest	33,381	
Trillium Grant	21,750	
Special Funds	10,000	
Mental Retardation Project	10,700	
Other	7,538	302,877
TOTAL REVENUE		$6,971,183

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Benefits	$3,496,725	
Building Occupancy	72,190	
Office Expenses	141,440	
Training, Education and Conferences	27,234	
Promotion and Publicity	33,772	
Purchased Services (non-medical)	94,562	
Transportation	113,053	
Boarding Rate Payments	2,507,832	
Health and Allied Services	72,515	
Client Personal Needs	265,244	
Emergency Assistance	24,997	
Miscellaneous	18,778	
Non-Recurring Costs	367,083	7,235,425
EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF REVENUE		(264,242)

DEFICIT

1985 Deficit	(192,814)	
Grants re 1985 Deficit	192,814	
Expenditures in excess of revenue	(264,242)	
DEFICIT AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1986		(264,242)

Auditors: Doane Raymond

An audited statement of the Society's financial operations for the year 1986 is available for study at the Society's office upon request.

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annual report 1987

URBAN MUNICIPAL
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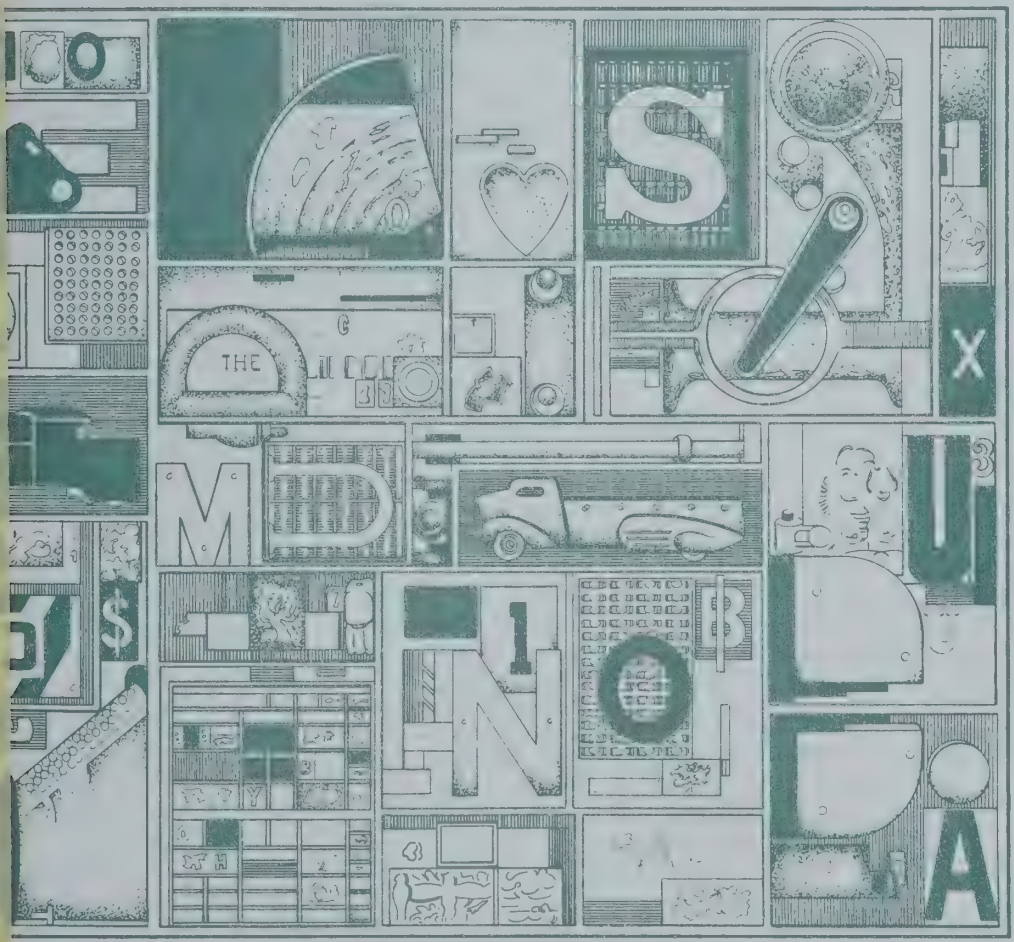
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



the children's aid society of hamilton-wentworth

spectacular crown wardship case

1987 will be remembered as the year in which our Society received international media attention as a result of a sensational Crown Wardship case involving two young children and their infant sister, born during the course of the trial. The case, which involved allegations of gross sexual abuse, occupied 150 full days of court activity over a 16 month period.

On March 30, Judge Thomas Beckett reached his decision that all three children should be made Crown Wards with no access by the parents. Appeals were launched, however Judge Beckett's ruling was upheld by the Ontario Supreme Court.

One of the most interesting aspects of the trial was that audio and videotapes of the children were admitted as evidence in an attempt to protect the children from having to appear in court. Recent changes in the Canada Evidence Act approved the use of similar techniques for presenting children's evidence in sexual abuse cases being tried in Criminal Court.

budget

Once again, our Society has been forced to request an Exceptional Circumstance Review by the Ministry of Community and Social Services to meet a year end deficit of $265,663 caused largely by the rising cost of providing residential services to the children in our care and the continued constraints on our base budget. Despite sound financial planning and attempts to absorb service related costs by reducing administration costs and, on occasion, through the reduction or elimination of services, we have been unable to function within the strict constraints of the budget which is provided by the Ministry and the Regional Municipality. New and creative programs to meet the ever changing problems facing the Society have had to be funded by private funds provided by donations and bequests. At best, this can only be considered a temporary solution. The real solution will have to be a request for a more realistic base budget in 1988.

Dr. Murray Ford,
President

organizational changes

Despite the complications caused by an overwhelming staff turnover in the Child Abuse and Intake units, the amalgamation of these units into a single Intake unit was accomplished. An intensive training program carried out by our most skilled child abuse experts provided the new unit with an increased level of skills in carrying out abuse investigations.

adoption disclosure: legislative changes

In mid year, changes to the Child and Family Services Act relating to adoption disclosures were introduced, making it possible for adopted persons over 18 years of age to request non-indentifying information about their birth parents from a Children's Aid Society. Despite government funding for a staff person to handle inquiries from adoptees, we have been completely unable to keep pace with the demands for service. Currently, there are 279 people on a waiting list and new callers are now being told that they will likely have to wait up to two years for their histories unless additional staffing can be funded by the Ministry.

"section 16" classroom

In co-operation with the Wentworth Board of Education, a special "Section 16" Classroom for behaviorally disturbed youngsters has been set aside in Winona High School to be used by adolescent boys in local C.A.S. group homes. In addition to the teacher supplied by the

the report of the president and the managing director

Wentworth Board, the classroom is staffed by a male Child Care worker supplied by the Children's Aid. The special academic programs appear to have caught the interest of the 10 boys who have been involved during the trial year, and two of the boys have been able to be integrated into a regular classroom. One of the major benefits of the special class is that boys, who previously would have had to be placed in outside institutions with special academic programs, have been able to be maintained in local settings thus allowing them to maintain contact with their natural families.

major trends in family services

The families with whom we have been involved in recent years tend to fall into two main categories: young, immature, single mother-led families and step families. Inability to cope with child behaviour is the major problem as is parent/adolescent conflict. Because it is impossible for a Children's Aid to refuse service, many of our families have been referred to us because of a serious lack of other community resources and waiting lists that may stretch from six months to two years.

While the increase in the number of referrals remained slightly above 10%, the workloads for social workers continued to rise dramatically as a result of the increasingly legalistic emphasis introduced by the Child and Family Services Act in 1980. Major factors included the vastly increased amounts of time required for court preparation, lengthy waiting periods for court appearances and the increased length of hearings because of the large number of lawyers involved representing parents, children and C.A.S.

Long-term workers for children in care also saw increased workloads resulting from court ordered visits between children and their parents which required supervision by a social worker and transporation time before and after the visits.

Although they proved negative in most cases, allegations of abuse related to custody and access to children from separated families — which nevertheless had to be investigated because of our mandate — added another time-consuming burden to our Intake staff.

child abuse

Child abuse cases continued their upward trend, however, physical abuse, which had been declining in recent years showed an unexpected upsurge in the latter half of the year. The severity of the abuse was such that we experienced a 77% increase in the number of children requiring foster care.

Much effort went into advanced training in abuse investigation for staff in 1987, and an internal Child Abuse Support Team, made up of highly skilled senior staff was created to provide additional support and direction to front line workers.

Syl Mainville
Managing Director

The position of Co-ordinator for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, made possible by a grant from the Trillium Foundation, provided much needed co-ordination for a community network of sexual abuse treatment groups run by social workers from a variety of social agencies who offer their services on a voluntary basis.

The Trillium Project is an excellent example of a much needed preventive service that would not be possible within the limitations of our usual base budget.

crown wards

Minimal turnover of staff helped provide increased stability to our work with Crown Wards who frequently remain in foster care until age 18. Training for eventual independence played a major role especially for youngsters who were unable to accept regular foster or group home placements. For them, private boarding arrangements with continuing social work support often prove successful. This past year, a Crown Ward Review by the Ministry gave us commendation for our adherence to the provincial guidelines for the quality of care and the setting of clear goals for children in our long-term care.

placement resources/ adoption

Despite a slight increase in the number of foster homes which resulted from an intensive recruitment campaign in Christian Reform Churches, residential resources for children remained in desperately short supply. In an attempt to come up with recommendations to resolve this crisis, which also exists throughout the entire province, the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies commissioned a research report which hopefully will point the way for new directions in foster care in 1988.

A new position funded by private funds which provides a Child Care worker as a support person for new foster parents, very quickly proved its value as a way of retaining our limited foster home resources. Plans for another privately funded position to co-ordinate foster parent recruitment were approved by the Board of Directors and will likely be in place early in 1988.

Because of a shortage of babies and a backlog of adoption applicants, we have not accepted any new applications for healthy infants under 2 since 1985. The majority of children awaiting placement are older or special needs children who have come into care of the Society as a result of family breakdown.

support services

Child Care workers from our Special Services Unit proved invaluable in preventing children coming into care through their intervention in crisis situations. They also provided intensive support and behavior management training to parents, play therapy for younger children and one-to-one counselling with teens.

Intensive support services were also provided to high risk parents by our paraprofessional Parent Aides.

in rememberance

We regret the death of former Board President, Dean Smith, a long time friend and supporter of Children's Aid.

our thanks

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our staff, volunteers, donors and the members of our Board of Directors; but most especially we wish to extend our appreciation to the foster parents who are the backbone of this agency.

1987 in review facts and figures

- 2,958 family services cases were opened involving a total of 7,395 children.
- Children needing to come into foster care because of a family problem increased markedly from 290 in 1986 to 319 in 1987.
- The increased number of children having to be removed from their own homes meant a total of 360 children in foster care at year end.
- Of 1,235 inquiries related to possible child abuse situations, 284 were registered as actual abuse cases, an increase of 22 over the previous year.
- 101 abuse cases involved males; 183 involved females.
- The police had sufficient evidence to file criminal charges in only 61 of the total of 284 cases.
- Abusers are either parents, caregivers or relatives in the majority of cases. In only two percent of abuse cases is the perpetrator a stranger to the child.
- 216 persons were involved in one of the 34 sexual abuse treatment groups co-ordinated by a CAS staff person. There were 13 groups for children of varying ages, 4 for non-offending parents or caretakers, 3 for adolescent male perpetrators, 5 for adult male perpetrators and 9 for adults victimized as children.
- TAMI's Drop-In Centre for teen mothers which was initiated by our Society, qualified for permanent local and provincial funding and moved to enlarged quarters in a northend church.
- Birth mothers are involved in the selection of adopting parents in the majority of adoptions.
- Only 36 couples applied to adopt, probably because of public awareness of the limited number of babies available for adoption.
- 11 children under 2 years were placed for adoption and 11 older children.
- Over 300 adopted persons requested non-indentifying information about their origins and those who wished to locate their birth parents were referred to the Provincial Adoption Registry.
- Each Adoption disclosure case required 8 to 13 hours of work to complete.
- In addition to 7 parent owned group homes, we have 1 agency owned group home.
- 37 applications to foster were received bringing our current number of foster homes up to 145.
- 68 of the 360 children in our care are in costly private group home and treatment settings.
- 11 Alternate Care foster families provide part-time foster care for 19 developmentally handicapped children as relief for natural parents and an alternative to institutionalization.
- Volunteers provided the support services that made our sexual abuse treatment programs possible: driving, meal preparation and baby-sitting. They also served as case aides, special friends, clerical and recreation assistants.
- Our Society provided hundreds of hours of staff time in the development of a children's play about the prevention of abuse called "Touching".

board of directors and officers
the children's aid society
of hamilton-wentworth

143 Wentworth Street South, P.O. Box 1107, Station A, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 4B9

1987-1988

Honorary Solicitors

Mr. John E. Milne, Q.C. Mr. John F. Ressor, Q.C.

Officers

President ..... Murray Ford
Immediate Past President ..... John M. Southall
1st Vice President ..... Brenda Yates
2nd Vice President ..... Edward Simmons
Treasurer ..... Webb McFarland
Managing Director ..... Sylvio Mainville

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Paul Jaggard
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Jackie McKenzie
Peter Schmitt
*Mary Ann Seldon
Fred Simpson
Lenise Willard

*Regional Councillor
**Resigned

summary of revenue, expenditures and deficit as of december 31st, 1987

Revenue

Province of Ontario	$5,663,051	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	1,415,577	$7,078,628
Gasoline Tax Rebate	745	
Other Societies	53,473	
Official Guardian Reports	1,168	
Membership Fees	2,563	
Payments from Parents	23,400	
Department of National Health and Welfare	143,445	
Investment Interest	29,198	
Trillium Grant	37,500	
Special Funds	59,617	
Mental Retardation Project	11,100	
Other	52,122	414,331
TOTAL REVENUE		$7,492,959

Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	3,693,853	
Building Occupancy	78,267	
Office Expenses	143,113	
Training, Education and Conferences	27,303	
Promotion and Publicity	36,194	
Purchased Services (non-medical)	101,227	
Transportation	119,167	
Boarding Rate Payments	2,787,881	
Health and Allied Services	93,816	
Client Personal Needs	317,064	
Trillium Project	46,885	
Independence Training Program	49,131	
Other Project Expenses	28,560	
Emergency Assistance	28,903	
Miscellaneous	21,706	
Capital Costs and Non-Recurring Costs	185,552	7,758,622
EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF REVENUE		(265,663)

Deficit

1986 Deficit	(264,242)	
Grants re 1986 Deficit	264,242	
Expenditures in excess of Revenue	(265,663)	
DEFICIT AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1987		(265,663)

Auditors: Doane Raymond

An audited statement of the Society's financial operations for the year 1987 is available for study at the Society's office upon request.

C.E. Brigga

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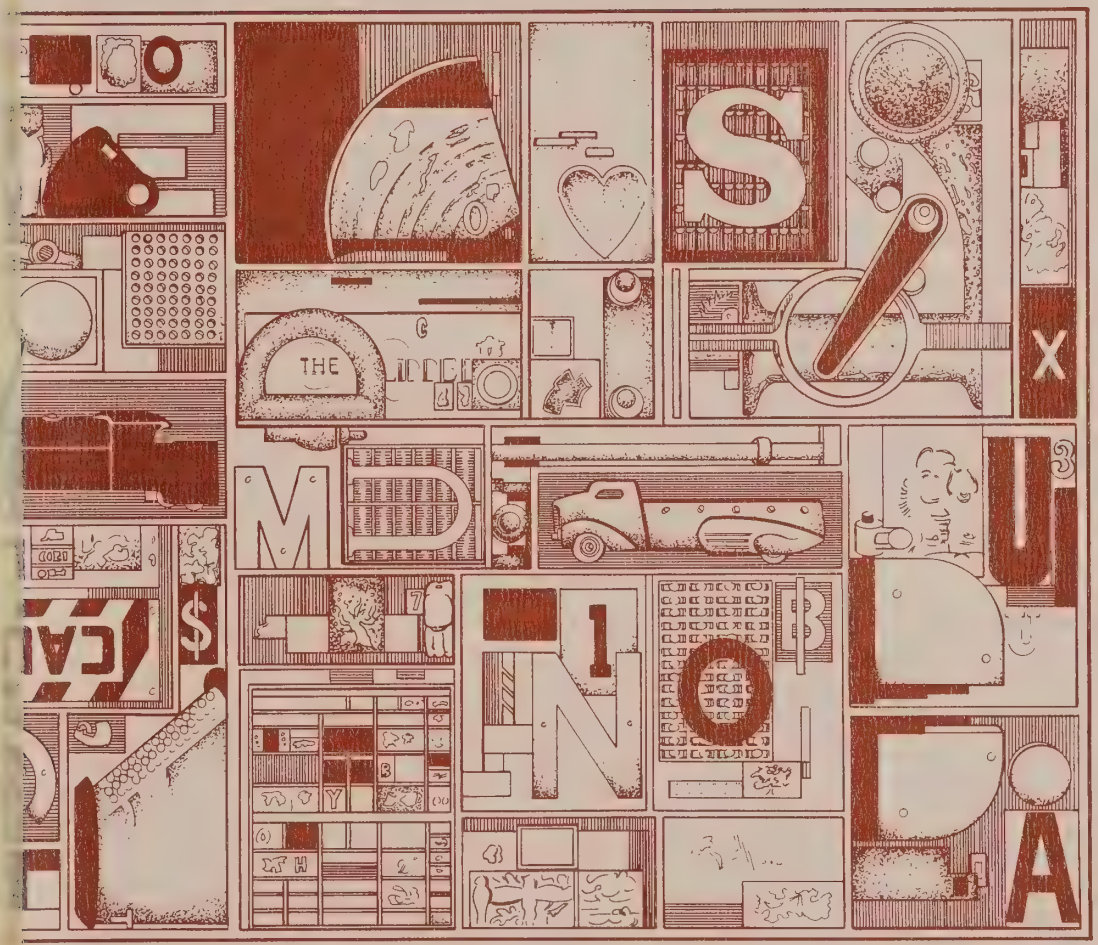
1989

annual report 1988



the children's aid society of hamilton-wentworth

exceptional circumstances review

Our Society entered 1988 with a major budget crisis looming and a $265,663 deficit. The crisis had its roots in six years of financial constraints during a period of increased service demand. During that time the Society demonstrated sound financial planning and attempted to control expenditures by reducing administrative costs and reducing, or eliminating, services. However, costs for providing residential services to special needs children continued to climb steadily higher and numerous changes in legislation and increased caseloads exacerbated the financial situation.

Application was made to the Ministry of Community and Social Services for an Exceptional Circumstances Review of our budget and after careful examination the Ministry agreed to meet our 1987 deficit and provide additional funds in 1988 for programming, capital and administrative expenses. Consequently, the Society ended 1988 with a small deficit of $7,821.

child abuse protocol

Following the introduction of Bill C-15 in January, the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police created a Child Abuse Branch manned by officers specially trained in dealing with child abuse. This action, plus a Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse agreed to by our Society, the Catholic Children's Aid Society, the Crown Attorney and the Regional Police, has done much to cement relationships and improve the process of investigating abuse cases. One of the major benefits of Bill C-15 has been the fact that videotaped children's evidence is now admissible in Criminal Court as well as Family Court. Children are also able to testify behind a screen rather than face their abuser in Criminal Court. Undoubtedly this will continue to have a great influence on the successful prosecution of abusers.

trillium project

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program, partially funded by the Trillium Foundation, provided 40 groups for victims of child abuse, their non-offending caretakers and siblings, adults victimized as children and adolescent and adult male perpetrators. In all, 316 people were helped to deal with the emotional and physical trauma of abuse.

Dr. Murray Ford,
President

fundraising

In addition to raising funds to support the Christmas and Camp Programs, we began a serious attempt to build a strong donor base to meet our financial obligation to the Trillium Project and to help us support further preventive services which cannot be funded through our operating budget.

In recognizing the strong tie between service planning, fundraising and public relations, a Department of Planning and Development was established by the Board.

public health protocol

Following an inquest into the tragic death of an infant in 1987, our society initiated the development of a procedural protocol designed to ensure a co-ordinated response by our society, the Catholic Children's Aid and the Public Health authorities. One basic referral form is used by all three organizations in order that there is consistency in the information shared; and decisions as to the service which each will deliver to families and children are made jointly.

It is hoped the protocol will prevent future tragedies through role clarification and the effective co-ordination of critical community services.

children's aid society
of
hamilton-wentworth

143 wentworth street south
hamilton, ontario

Our sincere thanks to the following donors who so generously contributed to the Children's Fund in 1988. In addition to partially funding a treatment program for victims of child abuse, the Children's Fund also provides Camp and Christmas assistance to children.

donor list
gifts to $99.00

Alberton Presbyterian Ladies Aid
Allan, Mrs. and Mrs. Roy
Aluminum, Brick and Glass, Local 203G
Arnott, Kitty
Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Paul
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Bainbridge, Pamela and Geoffrey
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Binbrook Women's Institute
Birchard, Dr. Edna L.
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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Janack, Dr. Edwin L.
Jensen, Mr. P.
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Lewis, Lawrence
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Mathison, June
Matthews, Miss Kathleen R.
Memorial School, Class 62
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Mihajlovic, Mrs. Kristine
Mills, Mr. Gilbert
Mintz, Norman
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Morrow, Ms. Vivian
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McCulloch, Ms. Sheila
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Order of Eastern Star, Chapter 304
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Ramage, Elizabeth
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Beatty, William and Sandra
Boyle, Ms. Cathie
Brown, Mr. G.
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Creasor, Miss Olive
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Hamilton Civic Hospitals
Gambell, Eileen
Hall, Fred and Son
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Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington
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Luke, Margaret
MacGillivray, Mildred
MacLennan, Dr. John G.
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McCarthy, Margaret
Merima, Jean
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Richmond, Dorothy S.
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Ryerson United Church
St. Paul's United Church
Shield, Richard
Trueman, Dr. John A.
Union Gas Limited
Waller, Albert M.
Women of Welsey United Church

gifts $500.00 to $999.00

Eaton's
Just Christmas
Labatt's Ontario Breweries
Rotary Club of Hamilton,
Sunshine Fund
Scott Park Secondary School,
Student Council

gifts $1,000.00 to $4,999.00

Arriscraft Corporation
Atkinson Foundation
Dofasco
Hamilton Foundation
Hunter, Mrs. Irene
Rotary Club of Hamilton,
Sunshine Fund
The Hamilton Spectator
Wentworth X-Ray Associates

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Ancaster Old Mill
Andres Wines
Angela's Beauty Clinic
Bandito Video
Bell Canada
CHML/CKDS Radio
Champion's Fitness Centre
Cineplex Odean Theatres
Coca Cola Ltd.
Collegiate Sports
Cottage Florist
Diamond Beverages
Gaye Craig Designs
Grady, Art
Hamilton Place
Hamilton Squash and Fitness
Hauth, Ingrid
House of Vogue
Hunter, Irene
John Doe's Restaurant
Keg Restaurant
Master Paints
McCarthy, Margaret
McCarthy, Patrick
Pathfinder Beverages Ltd.
Peters, Jan
Pickering, Gary
Professional Draperies
Prowse, Cathy
Sanders, Marie
Sears Automotive
Shinehoft, Mihailovich, Czutrin,
Campbell, Barristers and Solicitors
Spree Painting Contractors Inc.
Stefanik, Cornelia
Stephenson, David
The Barn Fruit Markets
The Squire Barber Shop
Walkers Chocolates
Yates, Brenda

Very special thanks to the Rotary Club A.M. for the gift of a van to transport children involved in agency programs.

1988 in review facts and figures

- 2,741 family services cases were opened involving approximately 6,500 children.
- At the beginning of 1988 there were 360 children in foster care. During the year 331 were admitted to care and 300 returned to their own homes, leaving a year-end total of 382 children in care: the highest in 5 years.
- 29 children were admitted to care for lack of appropriate housing.
- 640 reports of child abuse were received. This represented 23.4% of all referrals.
- 418 child abuse reports related to physical abuse, while 222 were for sexual abuse.
- 125 severe cases of child abuse were reported to the Provincial Abuse Registry and our Internal Registry.
- Although the number of charges laid by police against abuse offenders increased markedly, insufficient admissible evidence prevented charges in Criminal Court in 56% of confirmed abuse cases.
- Two pre-adoption training courses were held for couples on the waiting list to apply to adopt.
- A total of 28 children were placed for adoption.
- Because of an increase in the number of single mothers giving up their babies, more infants were placed than in recent years.
- 95 adopted persons were provided with non-identifying information regarding their birth family; however, lack of staff to process the disclosures led to a backlog of 323 on the waiting list.
- An overwhelming increase was seen in the number of applications to become foster parents: 50, as opposed to 37 the previous year.
- At year end we had 159 foster homes of which 112 were occupied.
- Of the 382 children in the care of the society, 68 were in outside institutions. Some of the settings required per diem rates of $100 or more.
- 9 Alternate Care foster families provided part-time foster care to 15 developmentally handicapped children as a relief for parents and an alternative to institutionalization.
- 28 professional volunteers from 10 local agencies participated as group leaders in the treatment group program for victims of abuse co-ordinated by our society.
- As part of our Child Abuse Prevention Program, we co-ordinated the efforts of over 30 social workers who volunteered their time to provide workshops for teachers and previews for parents of children in elementary schools prior to the sexual abuse prevention play, "Touching".
- Increasing (increased) numbers of contested wardship hearings and child abuse cases led to the hiring of a second legal counsel.
- By year end in 1988, we had almost 140 staff members. These included administrators, supervisors, social workers, Child Care workers, Parent Aides, contract workers and clerical and bookkeeping support staff.

board of directors and officers
the children's aid society
of hamilton-wentworth

143 Wentworth Street South, P.O. Box 1107, Station A, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 4B9

1988 -1989

Honorary Solicitor
Mr. John F. Reesor, Q.C.

Officers

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1st Vice-President ..... Brenda Yates
2nd Vice-President ..... Edward Simmons
Treasurer ..... Webb McFarland
Managing Director ..... Sylvio Mainville

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*Brian Hinkley
**Dorothy Marchesan
Jackie McKenzie
Peter Schmitt
*Mary Ann Seldon
Fred Simpson
Bob Spree
Lenise Willard

* Regional Councillor
** Resigned

summary of revenue, expenditures and deficit as of december 31st, 1988

Revenue

Province of Ontario	$6,384,368	
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth	1,580,666	$7,965,034
Gasoline Tax Rebate	752	
Other Societies	92,340	
Official Guardian Reports		
Membership Fees	2,171	
Payments from Parents	24,395	
Department of National Health and Welfare	163,812	
Investment Interest	31,174	
Trillium Grant	21,125	
Special Funds	37,037	
Mental Retardation Project	11,472	
Child Abuse Training Services Manual	112,258	
Other	33,572	530,648
TOTAL REVENUE		$8,495,682

Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	$3,995,428	
Building Occupancy	108,348	
Office Expenses	210,535	
Training, Education and Conferences	34,204	
Promotion and Publicity	31,554	
Purchased Services (non-medical)	140,813	
Transportation	143,160	
Boarding Rate Payments	3,058,333	
Health and Allied Services	88,440	
Client Personal Needs	381,669	
Trillium Project	40,635	
Independence Training Program	18,999	
Other Project Expenses	50,625	
Emergency Assistance	40,646	
Miscellaneous	23,228	
Capital Costs and Non-Recurring Costs	136,886	8,503,503
EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF REVENUE		(7,821)

Deficit

1987 Deficit	(265,663)	
Grants re 1987 Deficit	265,663	
Expenditures in excess of Revenue	(7,821)	
DEFICIT AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1988		(7,821)

Auditors: Doane Raymond

An audited statement of the Society's financial operations for the year 1988 is available for study at the Society's office upon request.

Syl Mainville
Managing Director

Provincially the Ministry's report on the Future of Foster Care showed clearly the need to look at the enhancement of the foster parenting role and increased board rates as essential to the survival of foster care.

In regard to adoption, a review was begun to determine the need for post adoption counselling services and the best way to provide them. Also noted was the fact that there is still a backlog of adopted persons waiting for up to two years for disclosure of background information. This is due to the Ministry's lack of funding for staffing to service the new legislation dealing with disclosure.

crown wards

The Crown Ward Unit, which provides long term foster care to children of all ages, underwent its second annual review of files by the Ministry to ensure our adherence to the standards of care set by the Child and Family Services Act regarding such things as regular home visits, medical and dental care, school progress reports, discussions with wards of their rights and a plan of care. Reviewers commended the agency for the consistency of care for Crown Wards which has resulted from a low staff turnover; however, they noted a disproportionate number of highly disturbed and dysfunctional teenagers — 60% of those reviewed — compared to all but one other Children's Aid in the province.

A major concern noted was the fact that $125,000 of our Crown Ward budget goes to support five mentally retarded adults over the age of 18 years who are still in foster homes due to the lack of available adult resources.

support services

In May the society integrated all the Protection support services into one unit of Child Care and Parent Aide workers. These workers provide invaluable assistance in keeping children in their own homes through behaviour management assistance to parents, crisis intervention, play therapy and one-to-one counselling with teens. Volunteer services are also provided by this unit.

strategic planning

As we enter the 90's, local strategic planning by organizations involved in child welfare will be following the direction set by two major Ministry discussion papers: "Managing Ontario's Social Services" and "Investing in Children". Plans call for responsiveness and continuity of service to children and families, programs aimed at prevention with "at risk" populations, early identification of disturbed children and co-ordinated treatment services.

On a local level, this means the community will be taking a hard look at organizations providing similar services and determining who does the best job. Provincial funding will then go only to those providing the most effective services.

Strategic planning presents a real challenge to our Society as we join forces with other agencies to develop innovative, community responses to the need for integrated community service delivery.

our thanks

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our staff, volunteers, donors and the members of our Board of Directors; but most especially we wish to extend our appreciation to the foster parents who are the backbone of our society.

the report of the president and the managing director

major trends in family services

In 1988, child abuse and intake services were integrated into one Intake Department.

Although referrals dropped slightly, the number of children admitted to the care of the society was the highest in the previous five years due to the serious nature of the referrals. The majority of clients continued to be young, immature, single mothers, step parents, and parents of adolescents. A high number of cases involved "high risk" infants requiring in-home protective support services.

The legalistic requirements of the Child and Family Services Act, time spent in court and supervising court-ordered visits between clients and their children continued to impact time-wise on social workers. Overtime was at an all-time high, although the hiring of additional staff made possible by our budget increase promised some relief. The majority of caseloads were reduced to 22-24 per worker with the exception of our long term Adolescent Unit. Due to a significant increase of disturbed adolescents coming into care in the latter part of the year, their caseloads increased to 28 per worker.

child abuse

Child abuse cases accounted for almost one quarter of all new referrals to the agency with the trend being one sexual abuse case to every two physical abuse cases. Surprisingly, this ratio is directly opposite to that experienced by other Societies in the province.

With the passage of Bill C-15 regarding the admissibility of children's evidence in Criminal Court and the establishment of the police Child Abuse Branch, the number of criminal charges laid by the police increased to 44% of confirmed abuse cases. Also, due to Bill C-15, the agency began conversion of an interviewing room for use as a videotaping studio. Police provided consultation to ensure that we meet the standards required for Criminal Court purposes. Staff training in videotaping evidence will take place in early 1989.

We continued to co-ordinate the network of treatment groups for victims that is staffed by social work and medical volunteers from the community and to participate fully in the school presentations of the Community Child Abuse Council's play about the prevention of child abuse: "Touching" by Michael Adkins.

placement/adoption services

For the first time in many years, we experienced a notable increase in available foster homes, largely due to the hiring of a full-time recruiter. Retention of homes was also greatly increased by the assignment of two Child Care workers as support staff for new foster parents and group home parents.

C. E. Belyea

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